

## REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Abington.

As your representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2008.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the fifteen-member community region. OCPC is designated as: an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the coordination of regional economic development activities; an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three community service area; and, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council is also involved in a wide variety of area-wide and inter-municipal events as they pertain to the development of the Planning District. The Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning; grant application preparation and current local and regional trends socioeconomic information.

During the past year, the Council completed work on the Bridgewater, Easton, Plympton and West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plans; the Council also completed work on the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 2008 Elderly Needs Plan Update; the Old Colony 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); the Plympton GIS parcel mapping; the Route 27 Corridor Study in Stoughton, Brockton and Whitman; Safety Audits for Route 24, Thatcher Street in Brockton/East Bridgewater and Landing Road in Kingston; the Bourne Road Corridor Study in Plymouth; the OCPC 2008 DataBook; the Annual Regional Traffic Volume Report; the BAT – FY 2008 Ridership Analysis, Old Colony Human Service Coordination Plan Update, System Time Study and Route 2A Study; and numerous Intersection/Technical Studies. This past year, the Council also provided technical assistance to member communities on expedited permitting; conducted traffic counts at approximately 225 locations throughout the region; and continued participation in the New Bedford/Fall River Commuter Rail Taskforce. OCPC is also working with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the towns of Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton, West Bridgewater, Whitman and the City of Brockton on the Upper Taunton Basin Regional Wastewater Evaluation Study, which the Council initiated. OCPC also administered the Septic Loan Program for the towns of Hanson, Pembroke and Kingston. The Area Agency on Aging provided approximately 121,000 vehicle miles of volunteer transportation; 2,000 hours of legal services; and approximately 520,000 meals to the seniors. The OCPC Ombudsman Staff and Volunteers made 1,576 visits to nursing homes, provided 292 consultations to individuals and 128 to nursing homes.

Each member community of the Council is represented by one delegate and one alternate member. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. In 2008, the Council elected Jeanmarie Kent Joyce of Easton as Council President; Robert G. Moran, Jr., of

Brockton as Council Treasurer; and Lee Hartmann of Plymouth as Council Secretary. Pasquale Ciaramella serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks are extended to Joint Transportation Committee Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Committee Chair Mary Waldron; and, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Chair James Taylor for their dedication, commitment and leadership during the year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Stanley Littlefield, Delegate  
Robert Wing, Alternate  
Matthew Striggles, Delegate At-Large