

Executive Summary

Cape Cod's transportation system has both shaped and been shaped by development patterns of the region. As our regional economy has evolved so too has our transportation infrastructure. From a reliance on ports and marine transport, to a steady growth by rail, and explosion of change fueled by the automobile – our region has undergone dramatic changes. All the while, our connection with our environment and our past has continued to define us. Demographic, climatic, and technological changes will present new transportation challenges over the next two decades and beyond. This plan presents a regional vision and sets of funding priorities to guide transportation investments that support the long-term vitality of the region.

The 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a **community-driven, performance-based** plan that considers the unique **challenges and opportunities** of the region and establishes spending **priorities** to allocate available surface transportation **funding** towards transportation **infrastructure** projects for Cape Cod through 2044.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

The RTP was developed through input from a wide range of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, and the public. In addition to over two dozen meetings including six regional public meetings, eight outreach tables and two English as a Second Language (ESL) events, feedback was also solicited through an online survey and comment cards from a local Portuguese church service. The online survey provided valuable input into the process including the identification of locations with transportation issues or challenges. The outreach will continue following release of the document for public comment including additional in-person and virtual public meetings, signs on transit vehicles, yard signs along the region's rail trail and an outreach table at a major outdoor event.

PERFORMANCE-BASED

Consistent with new federal legislation, the RTP is built on a performance-based planning approach with a vision statement, goals, objectives, performance measures and targets, strategies, and policies.

The RTP vision statement established the overarching vision of the document and is as follows:

The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization, informed by public input, envisions a multi-modal transportation system that supports the environmental and economic vitality of the region

through infrastructure investment that focuses on safety, livability, sustainability, resiliency, equity, and preservation of the character that makes our special place special.

The goals of the RTP expand on the vision statement in seven areas of emphasis. The goals are:

- **Safety:** Improve safety for all travel modes
- **Environmental and Sustainability :** Maintain, protect, and enhance the natural environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- **Livability and Economic Vitality:** Support livable communities and village centers that strengthen the long-term economic vitality of the region
- **Multimodal Options/Healthy Transportation:** Provide a variety of healthy transportation options to all users
- **Congestion Reduction:** Reduce congestion and improve travel time reliability
- **System Preservation:** Preserve, maintain, modernize and ensure resiliency of the existing transportation system
- **Freight Mobility:** Improve efficiency and reliability of freight movement

The performance measures and targets established in the RTP are quantifiable targets that the region will work to achieve over the coming year through implementation of a series of strategies and policies.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

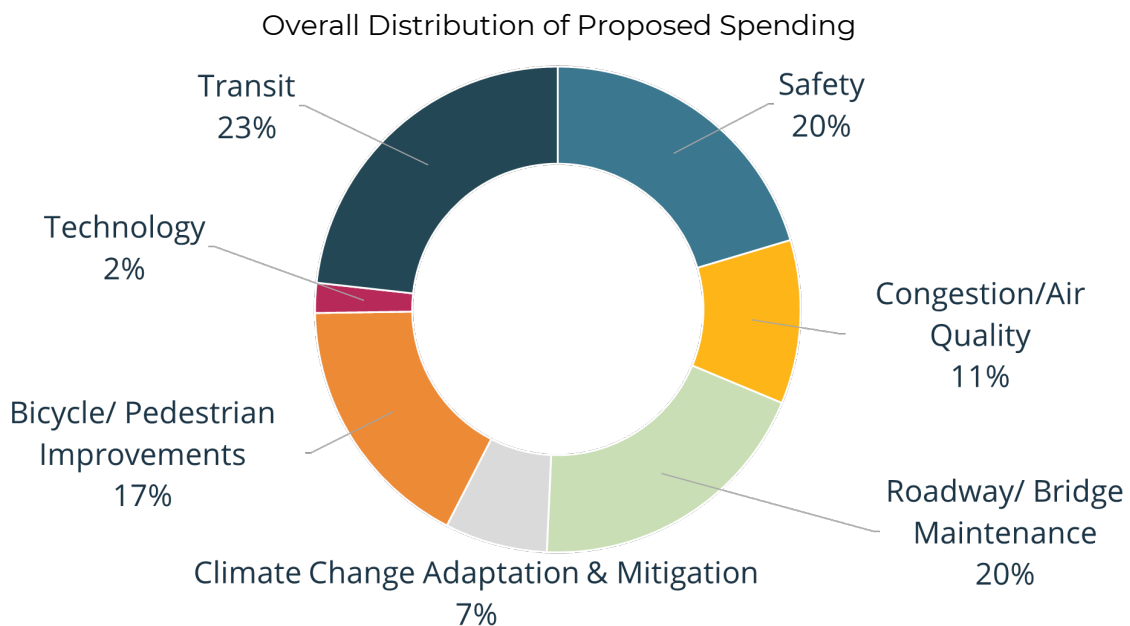
While the region faces many of the same transportation challenges as communities across the country and across the world, there are also many things that make Cape Cod unique. Developing transportation solutions for Cape Cod must account for the things that make the region a special and desirable place to live, work, and play. Some of the challenges and opportunities for the region that are detailed in the RTP include:

- **Historical Context:** maintaining a sense of place and recognition of history while evolving to meet the need of the next generation
- **Aging Infrastructure:** repairing or placing a significant amount of transportation infrastructure that is at or near the end of its design life
- **Safety:** identifying the locations of greatest need and vulnerability and implementing proven safety countermeasures to improve safety for all users
- **Security:** being prepared for extraordinary events that would threaten the people and the infrastructure of the region
- **Freight:** recognizing the importance of freight to the region while exploring a variety of ways to safely and efficiently transport it
- **Bicycling, Pedestrians, and Transit:** identifying the unique needs of all users and improving options for a variety of modes of healthy transportation
- **Congestion Management:** identifying opportunities to reduce the intensity, duration, and extent of congestion for all modes of transportation in our bottleneck locations

- **Stormwater Management:** identifying solutions to minimizing the contribution of nutrients and pollutants into the Cape’s waterways from stormwater runoff including freshwater
- **Climate Change:** preparing the region for the impacts of climate change through a focus on adaptation, sustainability, mitigation and energy sources
- **Access to Essential Services:** ensuring all users of the transportation have the same and convenient options to access essential services
- **Regional Cooperation:** ensuring that there is a cooperative and coordinated planning approach that involves all stakeholder agencies and the public
- **Economic Development:** supporting sustainable, year-round economic development opportunities through transportation infrastructure
- **Environmental Protection:** ensuring that transportation projects mitigate environmental impacts and provide environment benefits including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions
- **Equity:** ensuring full and fair participation by communities in the transportation decision-making process, and equitable distribution of benefits and any potential burdens from transportation projects

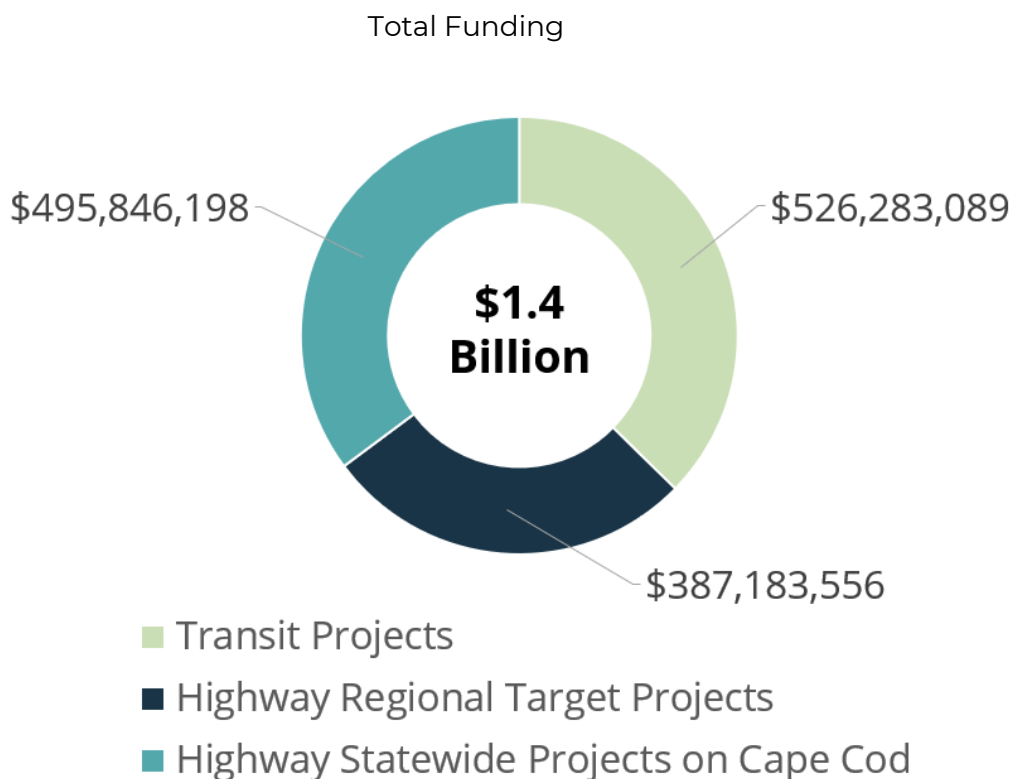
PRIORITIES

As a document that establishes the vision for the transportation system for the region, the RTP sets the framework for what will be built on Cape Cod. Based on a critical assessment of infrastructure needs, discussions at RTP development meetings, and feedback on the RTP survey, the following program of spending was developed. The overall distribution of proposed spending is shown below.



FUNDING

The anticipated funding in the region over the next 21 years totals approximately \$1.4 billion. This total includes spending on transit as well as highway projects (including roads, bridges, sidewalks, multiuse paths, etc.) broken down as shown in the following figure.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Out of the nearly \$387 million in funding for highway projects identified and selected by the region, the following projects were selected, balancing a number of factors including potential benefit, estimated cost, consistency with the objectives and performance measures in the RTP, equity as it relates to minority, low income, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and other protected populations, and GHG reduction potential:

- Mashpee Corridor Improvements on Route 151
- Route 28 Multimodal Improvements (various segments)
- Provincetown, Corridor Improvements and Related Work on Shank Painter Road/Route 6
- Cape Cod Rail Trail Extensions: Mid- and Upper-Cape
- Cape Cod Rail Trail Extensions: Upper- and Outer Cape
- Hyannis Area Improvements

- Route 6 (Outer Cape) Safety and Multimodal Improvements
- Route 6 Safety Improvements (Interchanges, Shoulders)
- Various smaller-scale projects to be identified based on future evaluations

In addition to these highway regional target projects additional projects of significance are anticipated including the replacement of Route 28 bridge of the Bass River and, potentially with additional federal and state resources, the implementation of the Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program including the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges.

In terms of transit projects, the region will transformative investments by the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority including the move towards electric of the bus fleet and delivery of service in a manner that will meet the evolving need of the communities served.

While many uncertainties exist about the future, the strength of the transportation infrastructure will undoubtedly be a key to Cape Cod's long-term vitality. The 2024 RTP sets forth this vision for the region and sets the framework for making smart transportation investments within the region through 2044.