



CAPE COD COMMISSION

3225 MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 226

BARNSTABLE, MA 02630

(508) 362-3828

FAX (508) 362-3136

CAPE COD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes, March 31, 2006

MPO Members and or Representatives / Ex-Officio Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Thomas Cahir	Deputy Secretary for Transportation Programs, Executive Office of Transportation (EOT), Representing Secretary John Cogliano
Mark Carmichael	District Project Development Engineer at Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office representing Luisa Paiewonsky, Commissioner, Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD)
Brian Currie	Chairman, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
William Doherty	Chairman, Barnstable County Commissioner
Paul Niedzwiecki	Assistant Town Manager, Barnstable, representing Henry Farnham, Town Council President
Wayne E. Taylor	Mashpee Selectman (Sub-region A: Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich)
Jane Otis	Dennis Selectman (Sub-region B: Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Harwich, Yarmouth)
John P. Hinckley, Jr.	Orleans Selectman (Sub-region C: Eastham, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet)
Wayne Lamson	Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority (SSA)

Other interested parties and staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Robert K. Edwards	Yarmouth
Jane Perry	Vice-Chairman, Falmouth Transportation Management Commission
Bernie Reagan	Bay Colony Railroad
Chris Anzuoni	Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Co., Inc. (P&B)
Dr. Edward Gross	MassBike Cape & Islands
Margo Fenn	Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Executive Director
Robert Mumford	Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Transportation Program Manager
Timothy Kochan	Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office
Rachel Bain	EOT / Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Priscilla Leclerc	CCC Senior Transportation Planner
Lev Malakhoff	CCC Senior Transportation Engineer
Clay Schofield	CCC Transportation Engineer
Davie Aron	CCC Transportation Analyst

Call to Order/ Introductions Tom Cahir, Deputy Secretary for Transportation Programs, EOT, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Mr. Cahir began introductions that continued around the room.

Minutes of February 17, 2006 The minutes were approved.

Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2006-2010—TIP

Amendment Priscilla Leclerc reviewed the reasons for the TIP Amendment, the August 2005 enactment and subsequent November 2005 appropriations of SAFETEA-LU¹ resulting in the revised funding estimates for Massachusetts and for Cape Cod. Priscilla reported on the public comment and review period for the Draft TIP

¹SAFETEA-LU = **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.**

Amendment, and she concluded with National Park Service (NPS) projects to be added into the TIP Amendment.

After a brief discussion on project cost updates, a suggestion to adjust the 2006 projects as follows—to increase the Orleans project by \$50,000 and reduce the Sandwich project by \$50,000—was accepted by the MPO.

Priscilla Leclerc mentioned the possible need for funds for the Provincetown-Truro shuttle and asked Brian Currie if he knew whether the funds were included in the CCRTA budget. Mr. Currie replied that he did not know.

With the 2006 project funding change accepted, and the NPS projects added in the TIP Amendment on the contingency to allow for a week for state review, Wayne Taylor moved endorsement of the TIP Amendment with the two changes. With a second to the motion, the MPO unanimously endorsed the TIP Amendment.

Project Updates

Tom Cahir, reported that EOT approved funding in December 2005 to conduct a rail study for passenger rail to Bourne/Buzzards Bay via Wareham. There is a Task Force with members from the MBTA, Wareham, Bourne, and EOT for the study—with CTPS doing the sophisticated modeling effort for the study. There was a meeting this past week of the Task Force. This is an important study, but just a feasibility study—there will not be rail back in town just yet.

William Doherty, County Commissioner, inquired about the jurisdiction if the rail were brought to Bourne—would it be both CCRTA and MBTA?

Tom reiterated that it is only in the feasibility stage of study. It is possible that if rail is determined to be feasible to Buzzards Bay, that it may be operated by the MBTA, or possibly by a private carrier. Both Marie Oliva and Tom Moccia are aware and involved in the study.

With a question by Jane Otis, Dennis, on the track capabilities for both freight and passenger rail service, Tom replied that he does not perceive the need for separate tracks at this time.

Bernie Regan, Bay Colony Railroad, offered that the tracks are rated FRA Class II from Buzzards Bay to Hyannis—up to 25 miles per hour speed, with jointed clickety clack track—that means bolted every 30 feet, or so, instead of welded for a smoother ride like from Buzzards Bay up.

Tom Cahir concluded the rail discussion with the note that the study meetings are open to all.

Priscilla Leclerc requested an update on the Dennis and Hyannis earmarked projects following meetings last week with the state.

Tom mentioned that Guy Bresnahan met with Luisa Paiewonsky who then contacted Stan Gee at Federal Highway Administration. Rachel Bain added that there is a meeting in Dennis today on that project.

Cape Cod 2006 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Lev Malakhoff, CCC Senior Transportation Engineer, presented a slide show on the safety and security information for the RTP. Lev informed those present about the state Highway Safety Improvement Plan effort, issues with current crash data through the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and transportation security. In addition, Lev reviewed responses to the online RTP comment form.

Jane Otis, Dennis, had questions on the questionnaire and the age of the crash data.

Lev responded that the questionnaire is not a statistical sampling, but available online and at the meetings held with the RTP on the agenda. On the crash data, both Lev, CCC, and Rachel Bain, EOT/OTP, reported that the state data collection system has major problems, but that the system is being reworked to be more uniform and up to date.

Jane Otis asked if the CCC could get on the police chiefs meeting agenda and speak about the need for improved data. Bill Doherty added that the Insurance records may be a source for accident data.

Bob Mumford said that we could work with communities to try to collect better crash data.

Reports and Other Information

· Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update Bob Mumford, CCC Transportation Program Manager, provided an update on a variety of UPWP activities, including CCC regulatory work, traffic counting, MassRides, mini-modal centers, and the Flex Route bus starting on June 1, 2006.

· Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee Report Priscilla Leclerc reported that neither the CCJTC Chairman or Vice-Chairman could make today's meeting due to conflicts. Priscilla added that following the discussion at the last MPO meeting on a bicycle representative to the CCJTC, the CCJTC decided to extend the time frame for bicycle interest submissions, and to appoint a subcommittee at the April 7th meeting for the matter.

· Cape Cod Commission Report Construction at two locations as a result of CCC regulatory work includes the intersections of Route 28 at Orchard Road/Ashers Path in Mashpee, and at Route 137 and Queen Anne Road in Harwich.

· Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) Update Brian Currie reported that the CCRTA is working on its new budget, with the Flex Route funds in there and an increase for Falmouth services.

Joe Potzka added that the Fare Study is complete, presented to the full board, and a new fare structure is in place to simplify for the transit customer. The Board (CCRTA) put customer service as a high priority; there may be a temporary revenue decline, but the hope is to attract additional ridership. The structure will be revisited if there is a ridership decline that is more permanent.

Public Comment There was none.

Other business The next meeting date was set for Friday, June 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn At approximately 2:45 p.m.