



CAPE COD COMMISSION

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Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Cape Cod Commission Offices, Conference Room
3225 Main Street (Route 6A), Barnstable, MA 02630

Minutes, Monday, November 18, 2009

MPO Members and/or Representatives / Ex-Officio Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
David Mohler	Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)/ Chairman, representing Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey B. Mullan, Esq., Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Luisa Paiewonsky	Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Ron Bergstrom	Chairman, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
William Doherty	MPO Representative, Barnstable County Commissioners
Mark S. Ells	Barnstable Town Council Representative
Wayne Taylor	Mashpee Selectman (Sub-region A: Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, and Mashpee)
Lawrence Cole, Ph.D.	Harwich Selectman (Sub-region B: Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, and Chatham)
Aimee Eckman	Eastham Selectman (Sub-region C: Eastham, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet)
George Allaire, P.E.	Chairman, Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC), Town of Yarmouth
Wayne Lamson	Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority (SSA)

Other interested parties and staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Thomas Cahir	Administrator, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
Ed Maroney	<i>The Barnstable Patriot</i>
Chris Anzuoni	Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway Co.
Jeff Stranger	Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway Co.
Larry Rosenberg	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Larry Davis	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Marie Oliva	Canal Area Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Northcross	Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
Chris Adams	US Rep. William Delahunt
Sue Rohrbach	Senator Robert O'Leary
Ben Nugent	Representative Jeff Perry
Robert K Edward	Resident-Yarmouth
Frank Tramontozzi, P.E.	Chief Engineer, MassDOT Highway Division
Bernard McCourt	District Highway Director, MassDOT Highway Division District 5
Pamela Haznar	Projects, MassDOT Highway Division District 5
Timothy J. Kochan	MassDOT Highway Division District 5
Rachel Bain	Cape Cod Liaison, MassDOT Planning
Paul Nelson	MassDOT Planning
Sean O'Brien	Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC)
Patty Daley	Chief of Staff / Technical Services Director, Cape Cod Commission (CCC)
Priscilla Leclerc	CCC Senior Transportation Planner
Lev Malakhoff, Ph.D.	CCC Senior Transportation Engineer

Glenn Cannon, P.E.	CCC Transportation Engineer
Clay Schofield	CCC Transportation Engineer
Andy Koziol	CCC Transportation Analyst
Joan McCarty	CCC Administration

Call to Order / Introductions – David Mohler, Executive Director, MassDOT Planning/ Chairman, representing Secretary Jeffrey Mullan, welcomed everyone as he called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m., and began the self-introductions that continued around the room.

Minutes of September 28, 2009 – With a motion by Larry Cole, seconded by Wayne Taylor, the MPO members voted to approve the minutes.

Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2010-2013 – Amendment

David Mohler, MassDOT, called on Priscilla Leclerc to begin with the TIP Amendment as the first agenda item.

Priscilla Leclerc presented slides on the proposed Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program Amendment (TIP Amendment) being submitted for discussion and consideration by the MPO. The list was provided in a handout to the meeting members. She reviewed the parameters for the list, the pending list of projects and explained the changes from the current TIP and the proposed TIP Amendment.

Ms. Leclerc reported that after attending a meeting with MassDOT regarding the list of projects considered for the 2010 year amount of approximately \$900,000, the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Real Time Traffic project proposed for the Canal area seems to be the most feasible. Priscilla added that the CCJTC voted to recommend inclusion of the state amount of highway stimulus funds to be flexed from federal highway to federal transit for the CCRTA, and voted to include the ITS project for consideration.

A question was presented regarding the use of the word “Flex” in the amendment referring to a fund transfer.

David Mohler explained “Flex” is the terminology used to reflect the transfer of funds between federal highway and federal transit or from federal transit to federal highway. He confirmed there was no reference to the “Flex” transportation system on the Cape.

A vote was taken passed unanimously to release the TIP Amendment as presented for a 30 day public comment period.

Canal Area Regional Task Force Luisa Paiewonsky, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division, introduced herself and explained she attended on behalf of Secretary Mullan. She advised that in September the Executive Office of Safety and Security asked her office to conduct a meeting with all the stakeholders and the Corps of Engineers to discuss the issues on the Sagamore Bridge. A variety of suggestions came out of the meeting and she understands the Corps of Engineers has acted on some of those. There was much discussion regarding Exit 1. Luisa concluded that a Task Force chaired by Tom Cahir will consider options in the Canal area.

Tom Cahir, Administrator, CCRTA, thanked Luisa Paiewonsky, and announced that the establishment of the Canal Area Regional Task Force is for the planning of the short, medium, and long-term recommendations with stakeholders within the next two weeks. Tom explained that there had been many meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers aimed at finding a solution to the traffic mitigation. He said that the CCC had been helping to that end, and Tom had been speaking with the Chambers to look at other suggestions. They have Paul Nelson of MassDOT for staff assistance in the effort.

Paul Nelson advised that he had put sign up sheets for anyone interested in signing up for the task force on the table near the door.

Larry Davis explained the scheduling for the work on the bridge. They hope to be off the bridge by Thanksgiving week. They will restart in March and will be working until Memorial Day. They may have to go on the bridge on a daily basis this fall after Thanksgiving to complete some of the work.

Larry Rosenberg advised that the Army Corps of Engineers is committed to helping with the dialogue regarding solutions to this particular problem, and also future problems. They hope that they can be part of the remedy.

The question was asked "Who made a decision to close down two lanes on the bridge and keep two open, couldn't it have been done closing down only one lane for a smoother flow of traffic."

Larry Davis explained that each lane is ten feet wide and if you only closed one lane that would be ten feet, minus room for barrels, another two feet, which leaves, only eight feet and the construction trucks are just too big to use that limited space. There is also a safety issue with workers on the narrowed area.

Next Larry Davis was asked why the workers are not working around the clock.

He responded that the contract called for two shifts, so the contractor has two ten-hour shifts and four hours off the bridge. They have found that after ten hours, the workers become much less productive so it doesn't make sense to have them working around the clock. Larry also pointed out that there are times when workers are loading trucks to go on the bridge and time needed to consolidate all the equipment they will need, so although it looks like they are not there, they are working but at times not visible. He also explained that with 3- 8-hour shifts, you would need to have supervisory people that are knowledgeable for the work being done every step of the way and that would be very hard to do.

Ron Bergstrom made the suggestion to inform the towns earlier when you know that the maintenance contract will begin because traffic will be backing up and in turn backing up the secondary roads, but if the local construction is at the same time then even the alternate routes are backed up. In the interest of traffic flow when there is bridge work, it would be better to have at least the local alternate routes not under construction.

MassDOT Update

Dave Mohler explained the new structure at Mass DOT as of November 1, and referred the members to their web page for the breakdown of employees, where they were in September when this began, and where they are now.

Luisa Paiewonsky explained that the direction of the new highway division will be a safety focus, as they had before, and preservation and maintenance of the highest volume roads.

The question was asked of Luisa would Chapter 90 funds be affected.

Luisa felt they would not be affected.

Reports and Other Information (1-4)

1) Project Updates—state and local project updates Pamela Haznar, MHD District 5 Office, reported on project updates as of November 2009 for the Cape Cod Region

2) Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee Update The CCJTC had nothing to report beyond what Priscilla has already said today.

3) Cape Cod Commission Update The Cape Cod Commission had nothing to report.

4) Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) Update Tom Cahir gave a brief overview of the CCRTA direction and projects.

Other business/Next Meeting The next meeting was set for Monday, December 21, 2009, at noon.

Public Comment There was none.

Adjourn At 1:20 P.M., Ron Bergstrom moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and passed unanimously.