



# FY2013 Annual Report of the Cape Cod Commission to the Town of Bourne

The Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The Commission's mission is "to keep this special place special," and the agency strives to achieve technical excellence, environmental protection balanced with economic progress, and regional consensus. The Commission pursued the following **regional priorities** for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013):

**1. Wastewater Management** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission prepared an initial Regional Wastewater Management Plan to serve as a framework and a set of tools to help begin identifying several water quality solutions for each watershed across the Cape. The Commission also prepared a guidance document for the agency's regulatory review of local Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans (CWMPs), conducted a Cape-wide buildout analysis to support local and regional planning, developed the Watershed MVP application for technical experts and municipalities to explore various potential management scenarios, developed a "green infrastructure" siting tool as a companion to the Watershed MVP, and pursued pilot projects to better understand green approaches to treating wastewater and stormwater. In January 2013, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts directed the Cape Cod Commission to prepare an update to the 1978 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan for Cape Cod, a requirement under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Commission subsequently developed a Program Work Plan for the 208 Update and has embarked on that work plan. The work plan has an ambitious set of tasks to complete within three years, the bulk of which is to be completed in FY2014. The Commission and its consultants are tackling the technical analyses, planning, financial, and public participation requirements for the 208 Update simultaneously. Stakeholders are engaged in the program's policy, affordability, financing, planning, and implementation issues, and in watershed- or basin-specific issues, needs



assessments, evaluation of alternatives, and evaluation of costs. The overall goal is to identify the most cost-effective, appropriately scaled and phased solutions on a watershed-by-watershed basis, focusing on the most severely impaired waters and the most easily and affordably implemented solutions while maximizing the use of existing infrastructure.

**2. Strategic Information Office** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission helped establish a governance committee. The Smarter Government Steering Committee then executed a data-sharing agreement with Cape towns to collaborate on opportunities for digital regionalization and recommend potential regional solutions for services and products that increase governmental efficiency and decrease costs to taxpayers. One example activity is the development of an “ePermitting, Licensing, and Inspection System” that is under development now. When fully implemented, the online system will allow Cape Cod municipalities to issue and monitor permits, licenses, and inspections, with a web-based portal for citizens and contractors. The system uses a common technology infrastructure and software that can be adopted regionally but tailored to each town.

**3. Community Design Services** – Related to this priority, this year the Commission managed a number of complex planning projects for which the staff provided community design services to Cape municipalities. Design services can focus on land use, streetscape, roadway, development patterns, transportation alternatives such as bicycle and pedestrian amenities, stormwater management, sustainable landscape design, and more. Design services are frequently integrated through Regional Economic Strategy Executive Team (RESET) assistance projects, which offer a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined approach to community and economic development planning.

**4. Economic Development** – Related to this priority, the Commission continued to pursue the implementation of priority projects that were identified in the Five-year (2009-2014) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This year the focus was on wastewater management planning in economic centers; continuation of the SmarterCape Initiative to promote the use of technology infrastructure that helps the region’s economy evolve from service-based to knowledge-based; and initial work on a comprehensive Cape Cod Canal area transportation study, which includes considering major congestion, safety, and community/economic issues associated with the bridges and the rotaries.



**5. Regional Consensus** – Related to this priority, the Commission coordinated a number of ongoing planning and policy-making endeavors striving to achieve consensus across the region. In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Commission embarked on a consensus-building update to the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Massachusetts Military Reservation and surrounding communities. The US Department of Defense-funded planning process between the military installation and the communities of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich aims to ensure that future community growth and development is consistent with the military training and operational missions and to help reduce the impacts of military operations on the adjacent land. The Commission also continued to help Cape communities prepare Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans for FEMA certification and potential future funding.

In addition to the Cape-wide regional services and programs that the Cape Cod Commission pursues each year (the highlights mentioned above), each of the 15 municipalities in Barnstable County receives direct assistance from the Commission that is tailored to that community's specific needs. **Some highlights of Cape Cod Commission activities specific to the Town of Bourne during Fiscal Year 2013 follow.**

## PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

### PLANNING

- As mentioned above, the Commission's planning and technical staff pursued an update to the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), including collecting and analyzing data, plans, studies, shared-services agreements, and land use/zoning and buildout analyses. The staff convened meetings of policy and technical advisory committees, completed a report on community-military partnerships, and held several workshops to identify potential shared-services opportunities.



Commission staff members are now completing initial feasibility studies for several potential shared services, and the staff will develop a model agreement and a final report by the end of September 2013.

The Commission's GIS staff has provided locus maps for the JLUS Update project showing features such as owners/occupants and land use, the boundary of Camp Edwards, protected open space and energy projects, buildout potential, and location of 40B affordable housing sites near the study area. Cooperative work with the military base's GIS staff resulted in a GIS layer that more closely matched the defined boundary of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve of the MMR.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The Barnstable County HOME Consortium, coordinated by the Commission's affordable housing staff specialist, made one down payment/closing cost loan totaling \$9,000 to a low-income first-time homebuyer.
- Construction was completed and units occupied at Clay Pond Cove, a development with 45 units of affordable age-restricted rentals done by the Housing Assistance Corporation with the assistance of \$150,000 in HOME funds.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- The annual planning process for the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) identified an assessment and study of potential transportation improvements in the Cape Cod Canal Area as one of the top priorities this year.

#### TRANSPORTATION

- The Cape Cod Commission's annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for transportation activities has also identified data collection and analysis and implementation/coordination of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), real-time traveler



information, and “smart” travel initiatives aimed at congestion management in the Canal Area as significant program activities this year.

One study will address congestion management in the area of the Bourne Rotary, one of the most serious traffic safety problem areas on Cape Cod. The study area includes the roadways leading to the rotary, including the Bourne Bridge, MacArthur Boulevard, Sandwich Road, and Trowbridge Road. Another study will address transportation safety at the Belmont Circle in Buzzards Bay. Traffic queues affect the village and can back-up onto Scenic Highway (Route 6 north of the Canal). This study will look at Belmont Circle, the Bourne Bridge ramps, Scenic Highway, the Route 6 Bypass, Main Street Route 6 and 28, Head of the Bay Road, and the intersection of Nightingale Road and Scenic Highway. The staff is analyzing at least four alternatives, including a “no-build” scenario against which to compare any “build” scenarios for these two study areas.

Although not managed by the Cape Cod Commission, the agency supports the trial CapeFlyer passenger-train summer weekend service, which launched successfully this year, attracting riders to and from Boston on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as one effort to alleviate traffic congestion in the Canal Area.

- The Commission’s transportation staff conducted annual summer traffic counts in Bourne, including automatic traffic recorders (ATRs) and turning movement counts (TMCs). Roadway segments and intersections in Bourne included Route 28 at the Bourne/Falmouth town line, Route 28 south of the Bourne Rotary, Route 28 north of the Otis Rotary, Route 28A at the Bourne/Falmouth town line, Route 28A north of County Road, Route 3A south of the Bourne/Plymouth town line, Route 6 Bypass east of St. Margaret, Route 6 Scenic Highway under the Bourne Bridge, Route 6 and 28 west of St. Margaret, Route 6A at the Bourne/Sandwich town line, Adams Street south of Sandwich Road, Andy Olivia Road south of Route 6 Scenic Highway, Clay Pond Road west of Route 28, County Road north of Route 28A, County Road south of Barlows Landing Road, County Road south of Old Dam Road and south of Valley Bars Road, Head of the Bay Road north of Belmont Circle, Meetinghouse Lane west of Old Plymouth Road, Nightingale Pond



Road north of the Scenic Highway, Sandwich Road west of Sagamore Bridge, and Trowbridge Road west of the Bourne Rotary.

## WATER RESOURCES

- The Town of Bourne recently completed a targeted wastewater planning effort for the Buzzards Bay downtown area. The Commission's water, planning, and technical staff supported the town's Wastewater Advisory Committee as it prepared the proposed wastewater management plan and water supply report in FY2012. The report provided a detailed assessment of the needs, alternatives, facility siting, and estimated costs of providing wastewater infrastructure to support the revitalization of Buzzards Bay. The staff also made a presentation to the Bourne Sewer Commissioners early in FY2013. The town has since voted to approve the report's recommendations to pursue the appropriate next steps.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- The Commission's GIS staff supported all of the above as necessary, and provided some analysis and map clarifications related to the proposed New Generation Wind Joint Venture DRI project. The staff is also developing a variety of concepts to support the efforts of the Commission's transportation department in its work to improve the Bourne Rotary.

## REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

### DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) MINOR MODIFICATIONS – TYPE #1

- The Commission's executive director approved requested minor modifications to these previously approved decisions:
  - ICE Tower/Sagamore Beach (TR99016) on 9/12/12
  - Hydroid, Inc. (HDEX/EX11018) on 9/19/12



#### DRI CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE

- Preliminary Certificates of Compliance:
  - NSTAR Lower SEMA 345kV Transmission Project (TR11014) – Issued on 8/23/12
  - Hydroid, Inc. (HDEX/EX11018) – Issued on 9/20/12

#### OTHER REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

- The Commission provided technical comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office on an Environmental Notification Form for the proposed MMR Small-arms Range Improvements project. Comment letter submitted on 9/19/12.
- The Commission provided technical comments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office on an Environmental Notification Form for the proposed Solar Array on MacArthur Boulevard. Comment letter submitted on 9/24/12.
- The Commission provided a comment letter on the Chapter 40B proposal for the Coady School Redevelopment/Residences, the redevelopment of a school building into a 58-unit affordable rental apartment facility. Comment letter submitted on 11/28/12.

For more information about the Cape Cod Commission, visit the web site:  
[www.capecodcommission.org](http://www.capecodcommission.org)