

Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC)

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

Minutes – January 10, 2014

Name

Joseph Rodricks, P.E., Chairman
Neil Andres
Paul Tilton, P.E.
Jeff Colby
George Sala
Chris Nickerson
Mark Budnick
Charleen Greenhalgh
Jack McCormack
Edward Gross
John D. Harris
Pamela Haznar
Timothy Kochan
Tom Currier
Dennis Walsh
Sallie Riggs
Tom Stokes
Steve Seymour
Sue Rohrbach
Joe Magni
Joe SanClemente
Robert Burgmann, PE
Glenn Cannon, P.E.
Steve Tupper
Lev Malakhoff
Michelle Springer
Lisa Dillon
Patrick Tierney

Representing

Dennis, Town Engineer
Eastham, DPW Superintendent
Sandwich, DPW Director
Chatham, DPW Director
Bourne, DPW Superintendent
Harwich, Road Maintenance Manager
Orleans, Highway Superintendent
Truro, Assistant Administrator
Cape Cod Commission
Bicycle Representative
Cape Cod Commission
MassDOT
MassDOT – District 5
MassDOT – Boston Project Management
Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
Bourne Transportation Advisory Committee
Howard/Stein Hudson
Town of Barnstable, Growth Management Department
Senator Wolf, Representative
VHB, Inc.
Howard Stein Hudson Associates
Greenman-Pederson, Inc.
Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission

Call to Order

Chairman Joe Rodricks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Upon a motion by Neil Andres, seconded by Paul Tilton, the minutes of the December 13, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously, with the following amendments – Correction of spelling of Charleen Greenhalgh's name and to change the second motion to reflect that Charleen seconded. Sue Rohrbach is representing Senator Wolf.

Cape Cod National Seashore Bike Shuttle Project – Dennis Walsh

Dennis Walsh gave a power point presentation which included Background and Need, Project Objective and Goals, Project Funding, Supporting Documents, Pilot Year Description and Evaluation, Modifications to the service resulting from the evaluation and Beyond Year 2, which were based on a Status Report from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and Cape Cod National Seashore.

Mr. Walsh discussed the ridership in the pilot year, 2012, and the second year. He stated that the towns of Truro and Provincetown have the most successful ridership. He noted that Clay Schofield was instrumental in getting the shuttle program started and helping to coordinate the grants in conjunction with the Cape Cod National Seashore. Mr. Walsh explained the advertising program for the shuttle. He gave details of the shuttles, the different types of vehicles, and the various ridership numbers stating that these numbers are still being analyzed. This information also includes evaluation surveys by riders and drivers.

Joe Rodricks asked if there is a targeted goal in which the ridership would be considered successful. Mr. Walsh stated that they would like to build ridership on the shuttle to 1500-2000 per summer.

Mr. Walsh stated that they are doing another CMAQ grant which will include Bourne and Sandwich commenting that the ridership is very different. Taking in account the demographics, ridership is much less. The ridership goals are adjusted based on the population and summer influence.

Mr. Rodricks asked Mr. Walsh how bicycles are accommodated on other CCRTA buses and in particular on routes connecting downtown Hyannis to the Rail Trail. Mr. Walsh stated that CCRTA buses currently have racks on the front to hold 2-3 bicycles and that they are considering adding racks to the inside of the shuttle buses, like the Boston MBTA has.

Glenn Cannon stated that this project is currently funded on the TIP for FY 2014, and will come to the Committee again in 2015. Mr. Walsh stated that after the 3rd year of CMAQ funding the towns are responsible for additional funding after the end of this 3-year pilot program. He will initiate that process with the towns. He also stated that all of the flex buses were purchased with Federal funding. He noted that it's our job with Federal Transit Authority (FTA) funds to push for state contract assistance as \$3 million a year are funded by MassDOT, and local assessment and operational funds help to operate the service.

Edward Gross asked how the project was marketed. Mr. Walsh explained through flyers, cards, websites and the Chamber of Commerce. These advertisements were distributed as far as South Eastern Massachusetts and Boston. Mr. Gross expressed that Boston is the market in which we want to target families. We can reach families through news articles and the media. Mr. Walsh stated they are going to urge the National Park to do some advertising as well.

Mr. Rodricks asked if there were other areas with the same service. Mr. Walsh is not aware of any.

Paul Tilton commented that one way to encourage ridership would be to have HOV lanes. When discussions begin about the new bridge, it is something that should be discussed and encouraged, even if it's a mile, as this will encourage ridership.

Charleen Greenhalgh stated that the service was advertised in Truro and that the town is very pleased with the service. The only criticism she noted was that she has received complaints about the shuttle drivers driving too fast and that when they are getting onto Route 6 at some of the ramps the vehicles are not yielding. Some education to the public would be helpful.

Dennis-Yarmouth Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension, Bass River Bridge – Joseph Magni

Joe Magni gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension in Yarmouth/Dennis, Route 134 extending to the Bass River Bridge with an extension to Peter Homer Park extending about 4

miles which included the Project Goals, Detailed Engineering and Project Schedule. Goals and objectives have been reviewed and approved by Pam Haznar. He stated that the towns have agreed to some of the maintenance. Mr. Magni stated that the overall value of this project is \$8 million and \$5.6 million of that is construction which is being funded by the TIP program. Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2014.

Discussion was had about the speed tables and if they were the first on Cape Cod – Dr. Gross explained that there were some in Falmouth, Woods Hole before they were replaced with smaller ones. Mr. Magni explained that there is a federal standard which will be followed. More detail of this project will be discussed in future meetings.

Mr. Magni stated that one of the concerns by Dennis Town Hall is that it will be used for parking. He explained that 25 spots have been negotiated with the FHWA to be used exclusively by the Bike Path.

Dr. Gross noted concern with the 10 foot width of the path noting that the current AASHTO standard is 12 feet. Mr. Magni stated that future bike paths will be 12 feet, but that this design pre-dated the new AASHTO standard. He noted that the path will include 3 foot shoulders and that there will be traffic calming at the intersections and includes gathering areas.

Paul Tilton asked why there was no grass on the trails and Dr. Gross explained that as a runner grass is too soft and that hard packed soil is better for running.

Chris Nickerson questioned the year round use and if anything is being done at the islands to delineate the area for snow plows. Mr. Magni said that will be kept in mind and thanked Mr. Nickerson for the comment.

Mr. Cannon stated that we are working County-wide on education of cyclists throughout Cape Cod because bicycles are not observing the rules of the road. The advertising will kick off in the spring. Mr. Rodricks supports that completely agreeing with Mr. Cannon. Mr. Andres following up by stating that we need to adopt uniformity as people travel the length of the trail. Mr. Magni stated that it will be difficult due to funding, but agrees with Mr. Andres. Mr. Rodricks commented that Mr. Magni has talked with DCR and stated that we have tried to standardize this as much as possible moving forward and that this is the first large project for bike trails. Discussion was had about avoiding straight alignments through for bicycles so that they slow down and stated that there will be lights at night so that people can see. Mr. Rodricks stated that “S” curves have been included in the design which helps to slow people down.

There was discussion about the potential including gates on the rail trail at the road crossings. Dr. Gross commented that there are similar gates at the Shining Sea bike trail where the hospital is and there is a danger due to the ambulances going through. He noted that EMT's don't like the gates because they can't get down the bike trails to pick up those in distress. He also commented that you can't see them at night and that reflectors would be helpful. Mr. Magni stated that there will be large boulders at the parking entrance and at public roads there would be islands with cobblestones to keep passenger vehicles from entering.

There was discussion with regard to a ground zero destination of the rail trail to start the mile marker measurement but no decision has been made at this time.

Mr. Magni introduced a graphical depiction of the proposed bridges for Station Ave, Bass River and Route 134. Mr. Rodricks explained that discussion was had by the Town of Dennis and it was concluded that Trusses would be a better look since they are open and airy. It is also a great tie into the Railroad.

Mr. Cannon concluded the discussion of this project stating that everything that Mr. Magni has presented is included in the 2014 TIP except the Bass River Bridge portion of the project. He noted that this project was brought to the group for information purposes and acknowledged all of the great comments. The Bass River Bridge portion of the project is moving forward with the help of Ms. Haznar who also suggested putting this project in 2015 due to permitting issues. Mr. Cannon also thanked Senator Wolf's as well as Senator Keating's office and Stefanie Coxe have been instrumental in moving the Bass River

portion of the project along.

Orleans, Route 6A/Main Street and Route 28/Main Street Project – Tom Currier

Tom Currier gave a presentation on the Orleans – Main Street Intersection Improvements at Route 28 & Route 6A which included the proposed improvements and plans. The project initially started out as replacing antiquated traffic signal equipment to relieve congestion at the intersection within the constraints of limited geometry. This project is at 25% design stage.

Ms. Greenhalgh commented that the Main Street – Route 28 intersection has a lot of pedestrian activity and that this project will be a huge improvement.

Jeff Colby suggested widening the shoulders for bicycle accommodation and Ms. Haznar stated that they are looking at adding width for bicycles and is being investigated now, and that they are trying to incorporate as much as we can in this project. Mr. Haznar looked at preliminary graphics by Tabitha Harkin at the Cape Cod Commission and met with Mr. Cannon to discuss the project. Mr. Cannon would like to thank Ms. Harkin for her work on this project. He also stated that this project is one of our success stories in which the Cape Cod Commission worked closely with the public which was moved forward to MassDOT.

Ms. Haznar commented that the roundabout project at Rt 6A and Route 28 [TIP FY2013] will improve more of the regional flow, not just operations at the isolated intersection.

Mark Budnick stated that it is very difficult to make a left turn out of Cove Road and asked if a right turn only is something that can be visited. Mr. Currier stated that there is a high level of concern at this intersection and there has been discussion of making this street a one way, also stating that there is plenty of time to flesh out issues. Mr. Budnick also noted a concern with the Land Ho restaurant stating that it does most of its loading on Cove Road.

Mr. Andres asked who is paying for Opticom. Ms. Haznar stated that 80% of the equipment is paid by federal, and 20% is paid by the state, and included in the TIP. Signal upgrades will be included in the TIP project upgrade. The town is responsible for the maintenance of these systems.

Safety, Lane Departures on Curves and Bicycle/Pedestrian - Steve Tupper

Steve Tupper gave a presentation on MassDOT Safety Initiative for Lane Departure Crashes on Curves and Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements which included an overview of the Safety Plan and Improvement Concepts. These projects are still in development and looking for feedback from the Towns and Mr. Tupper will send comments to MassDOT. What MassDOT is expecting is that the Towns identify these locations and then submit an application to the state; the Cape Cod Commission will assist in any way. A question was raised about which roads are eligible for this program. Mr. Tupper stated that he will get clarification on this question and follow-up with the group. Once approved each community would be responsible for the installation. Any questions please bring forward.

Mr. Rodricks asked about the existing signs and whether they would be re-evaluated or just replaced. Mr. Cannon stated that the Cape Cod Commission would assist in putting together the necessary reporting.

Ms. Haznar commented that this is part of low-cost measures under MAP-21 and is for small-scale solutions that may prove to be interim solutions if the safety problem persists. She noted that where safety problems persist a more detailed look at the crash records could be used to identify potential future improvements. Mr. Cannon stated that if something is not working, we can work together to gather the appropriate information and present for next year's TIP.

Mr. Andres commented on med-flights in the Eastham area. Mr. Cannon said that he would put it on the

list for evaluation and that the Cape Cod Commission will work together with the Town.

Mr. Tupper stated that the Cape Cod Commission is looking to encourage uniformity crash reporting for both vehicular and bicycle crashed Cape Wide. He noted the Commission will also be working with individual towns to help them improve crash reporting and report submission through a number of initiatives.

Traffic Counting Program – Lev Malakhoff

Joe Rodricks asked that this agenda item be postponed until the next meeting on February 14, 2014.

Lev Malakhoff distributed a handout for each town that included each town's traffic counts collected by the Commission over the past ten years. He stated that these handouts are currently available on the Commission website.

Mr. Malakhoff introduced Patrick Tierney as Technical Services Planner and noted that he will be starting full-time beginning in May 2014.

Other Business

Mr. Rodricks concluded by stating that it is important for each town to see the importance of participation in the JTC meetings and he would like to keep the length of the meetings down. Mr. Cannon and Ms. Greenhalgh agreed that hearing from all towns has been very helpful. We are grateful for comments and will incorporate them.

Mr. Cannon stated that there is going to be a forum next Thursday, January 16 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Bourne Community Center in Buzzards Bay to discuss extending the Commuter Rail to Buzzards Bay. Mr. Cannon also commented that Mr. Tupper and Mr. Cannon through the graces of MassDOT will be going to the Transportation Research Board annual meeting in Washington DC next week to gather information from across the county that they can bring back to the group.

Adjourn: Joe Rodricks motioned to adjourn; Charleen Greenhalgh seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 10:32 am

Documents and Exhibits:

Outer Cape Bike Shuttle Pilot-Year
Evaluation & Year – 2 Modifications Report
Dennis Yarmouth Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension, Bass River Bridge
Orleans-Main Street Intersection, Improvements at Route 28 & Route 6A
MassDOT Safety Initiatives – Lane Departure Crashes on Curves and Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements