



CAPE COD  
COMMISSION

## **Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**

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### **DRAFT Minutes, July 15, 2019**

#### **MPO Members in Attendance**

Steve Woelfel

Pam Haznar

Dan Santos

Judith Froman

Alan McClennen

Robert Weinstein

Amy Sullivan

Jason Steiding

Tom Guerino

Ronald Bergstrom

#### **Representing**

MassDOT Planning representing Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT  
Secretary of Transportation

MassDOT Highway Division, District 5 representing  
Administrator Jonathan Gulliver

Town of Barnstable

Sub Region A: Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee and Falmouth

Sub Region C: Harwich, Brewster and Orleans

Sub Region D: Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown

Federal Highway Administration (non-voting)

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Counsel

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority

Barnstable County Commissioner

#### **Others in Attendance**

Ben Muller

Tim Kochan

Cheryll-Ann Senior

Noah Berger

Tom Cahir

Steven Tupper

Colleen Medeiros

Jessica Wielgus

David Nolan

Lev Malakhoff

Sue Moran

Wendy Northcross

Marie Oliva

Bert Talerma

#### **Representing**

MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, MPO Liaison

MassDOT Highway Division, District 5

MassDOT Highway Division, District 5

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority

Cape Cod Commission

Barnstable County Economic Development Commission

Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce

Cape Cod Five Bank/Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Board  
Chairman

Jeffrey Bilezikian  
Greg Bilezikian  
Jamie Veara  
Anne Scott-Putney

Ethan Genter  
Stephen Buckley  
Sheila Miller  
Tammy Hanny  
Paul Lambert, Sr.  
Deborah Rudolf  
Rob Wilson

Turtle Rock LLC  
Turtle Rock LLC  
Davenport Companies  
Heritage Museums & Gardens/Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce  
Board Member  
Cape Cod Times  
Openchatham.com  
Canal Bait and Tackle  
Bourne Resident  
Bourne Resident  
Plymouth Resident  
Resident

## **Call to order/Introductions**

Steve Woelfel called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Mr. Woelfel asked that members and audience introduce themselves.

## **Potential approval of the DRAFT minutes of the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting on June 17, 2019**

Upon a motion to approve the June 17, 2019 DRAFT minutes of the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting by Tom Guerino, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Weinstein. Ms. Hazner had a minor comment to clarify that the utility coordination meeting for the Route 151 Mashpee project occurred in Winter 2018 not 2019. The vote was passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

Steve Buckley made a suggestion that it might be helpful that the MassDOT project status updates be provided ahead of time in the meeting material handouts. Currently, the MassDOT project status updates are documented afterwards in the meeting minutes.

Sheila Miller, Owner of Canal Bait and Tackle, stated her concerns regarding the MassDOT Canal Area Transportation Study recommendation of the Exit 1C relocation. Ms. Miller is concerned with impacts to the village of Sagamore specifically the impacts on her business and adjacent businesses on Cranberry Highway with relocating Exit 1C. She was unaware of these meetings and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) process and would like to be notified of upcoming Canal Area related meetings. Ms. Miller suggests more public transportation options to get over the bridges and stated concerns with a bike path on the potential replacement bridges.

Tammy Hanny is a Bourne Resident on Route 6A and stated concerns with the Canal Area Transportation Study recommendation of the Exit 1C relocation. Ms. Hanny is concerned with impacts for residents who live on Route 6A in Bourne with increased traffic, more congestion and negative impacts to the area home values with the potential Exit 1C relocation. Ms. Hanny suggests additional alternatives be investigated.

Jeff Bilezikian, from Turtle Rock LLC, stated his concerns with the MassDOT Canal Area Transportation Study recommendation of the Exit 1C relocation. Mr. Bilezikian is concerned with impacts on his business and all business on Cranberry Highway with relocating Exit 1C. Mr. Bilezikian was not aware of the MPO and RTP meetings and wishes to be part of the planning process for changes in the Sagamore Bridge area and notified of upcoming project related meetings.

Bert Talerman from the Cape Cod Five and the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman stated his support for MassDOT's efforts on improvements to the Canal Area. Mr. Talerman emphasized the economic necessity for bridge replacements and importance to have a modern transportation system for the entire region.

Wendy Northcross, CEO of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber's support for the inclusion of MassDOT Canal Area study recommendations in the RTP and thanked MassDOT for their responsiveness and attention to improving the regional roadway system. Ms. Northcross notes the impact of bridge maintenance activities and importance of bridges to the Cape's main emergency evacuation route. Ms. Northcross also noted the Chamber's support to improvements for all modes of transportation in the Cape Cod RTP.

Marie Oliva, President & CEO of the Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce, provided a statement for support of the Canal Area Transportation Plan study recommendations by MassDOT in the Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Oliva notes impact of bridge maintenance activities and the importance of the canal bridges to emergency evacuation on Cape Cod.

Mr. Woelfel stated that those in attendance from the public who wish to have their contact information be added to the public outreach list on the Canal Area improvements can see him or Ben Muller and the end of the meeting.

**2020 Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development:** The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) establishes long-range vision and goals, identifies major projects, studies, and programs for Cape Cod from the years 2020 through 2040. The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released a draft 2020 RTP at their meeting on June 17, 2019 for a 21-day public comment period. Cape Cod Commission staff will present public comments received regarding the 2020 RTP, and potential responses to these comments. Public comments and a revised draft 2020 RTP, which includes potential changes based on public comments, can be found at [www.capecodcommission.org/meetingnotices](http://www.capecodcommission.org/meetingnotices). The Cape Cod (MPO) will discuss the 2020 RTP, public comments received regarding the 2020 RTP, and may vote whether to endorse the 2020 RTP. The Cape Cod MPO may also sign a Certification of the Cape Cod MPO Transportation Planning Process to certify compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for the Transportation Sector and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. — Steven Tupper, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Program Manager

Mr. Tupper presented a summary on the 368 public comments received on the Draft 2020 RTP during the 21-day public comment period. An updated copy of the Draft RTP and the public comment packet is included with the meeting materials. Mr. Tupper also noted the additional public testimony heard at today's public meeting will also be entered into the record as well. As seen in the public comment packet, the public comments include approximately 180 emails in support of the MassDOT Cape Cod Canal Area improvements and importance of the bridges to the region. Approximately 176 comments were received from a public outreach event at a local Portuguese church service with many comments focusing on the need for more transit and multi-use paths for the region, as well as general support for the projects included in the RTP. A comment letter was also received from MassDOT requesting minor clarifications and to revise the timelines included in the RTP table of Regional Highway Target Funding for implementation of the Canal Area improvements. Reminder the funding for the Canal Area targets will come from outside the region's highway target as additional funding. The RTP has been revised to reflect all of the public comments received to date.

Ms. Froman read a statement from Bourne Selectman George Slade, regarding his concerns to the Town of Bourne with the potential Exit 1C relocation. Ms. Froman also stated that the bridges and canal area projects are the front door to the Town of Bourne and these projects will impact multiple facets of the town's infrastructure, economy and planning efforts. Ms. Froman requests that a statement be formally recognized in the final 2020 RTP that allows the Town of Bourne to have a significant presence at the table during continued discussions in the design phase for canal area improvements and bridge replacements.

Mr. Guerino stressed the importance to minimize the impacts to the Town of Bourne.

Mr. Bergstrom asked if the Town of Bourne has performed an economic analysis for future development for Sagamore area in the future. Mr. Guerino stated that the town has not looked at the long-term effect for that area but is working on a town-wide economic development plan and Sagamore will likely be a primary area for further study.

Mr. Woelfel clarified that the inclusion and outside funding of the Canal Area improvements in the 25-year RTP does not necessarily mean that all of the recommendations will happen but allows the process to continue. The funds will give flexibility to MassDOT and the MPO to further explore the recommendations as the public process continues.

Ms. Haznar reiterated that the comprehensive MassDOT Canal Area Transportation Study was at the conceptual stage and the results are still preliminary with regards to the MassDOT Highway Division. During the next phase during the design process, there will be more analysis, engineering studies and public outreach to be conducted.

Noah Berger applauded MassDOT and the Commission for visionary and proactive approach to bring additional funding to the region.

Ms. Froman supports Noah's statement and thanks the public for attending today as the Canal Area will continue to be an extensive project and public process.

Upon a motion to endorse the 2020 RTP to include a statement that gives preference to the Town of Bourne during the continued discussions with MassDOT on Canal Area improvements by Judith Froman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Weinstein, the vote was passed unanimously.

**Air Quality Planning Memorandum of Understanding:** Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) staff will present a draft 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning agreements and responsibilities in the conduct of air quality planning and coordination for transportation conformity in Massachusetts among MassDOT, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Public Transportation Operators. The draft MOU is available at [www.capecodcommission.org/meetingnotices](http://www.capecodcommission.org/meetingnotices). The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization may discuss and potentially vote to endorse the MOU. — Ben Muller, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, MPO Liaison

Mr. Muller gave an overview of the draft MOU for the air quality analysis process. This is third in a series of MOUs developed over fiscal year between MassDOT and various agencies including RTAs, MPOs and Mass DEP. At the request of FHWA, this MOU was developed to clarify document sharing with Mass DEP. MassDOT is seeking an endorsement today from the Cape Cod MPO.

Upon a motion to endorse the Air Quality Planning MOU by Alan McClennen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judith Froman, the vote was passed unanimously.

**2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Application:** The Town of Barnstable and the Cape Cod Commission are jointing applying for funding through 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. The funding would cover a portion of the Hyannis Access Phase II (Yarmouth Road Reconstruction). The reconstruction of Yarmouth Road would include converting the roadway from two lanes to a four-lane boulevard and the addition of a bicycle-pedestrian path connecting the Cape Cod Rail Trail to Hyannis. Information on the grant application can be found at [www.capecodcommission.org/build](http://www.capecodcommission.org/build). The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization may discuss and potentially vote on sending a letter of support for the application. — Steven Tupper, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Program Manager

Mr. Tupper gave a brief overview of the proposed grant application and the Yarmouth Road project. A TIGER grant application was submitted in 2017 and scored very well, but was ultimately not selected at that time. The Cape Cod Commission and the Town of Barnstable as co-applicants are submitting a new grant application for a \$25 million grant to support the Yarmouth Road project under the BUILD program. As seen in the executive summary included in the meeting packet, the project includes reconstructing the roadway into a four-lane median divided roadway with a proposed multi-use path for pedestrians and bicyclists. The proposed project will improve traffic operations and safety for this important regional roadway. Numerous support letters have already been received from various supporting agencies, including the US and State Delegation.

Mr. Woelfel stated that MassDOT is working on sending their own support letter.

Upon a motion for Cape Cod Commission/MPO staff to draft and send a support letter for Yarmouth Road BUILD grant application on behalf of the MPO by Robert Weinstein, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pamela Haznar, the vote was passed unanimously.

**Route 6 Interchange and Shoulders Study:** Cape Cod Commission staff recently completed a study aimed at identifying alternatives that will improve safety at the interchanges and along Route 6 on Cape Cod. The study specially looks at the potential for extending acceleration and deceleration lanes for Route 6 exits 1C-12. The study also considers the potential for expanding paved shoulder on section of Route 6 between the Cape Cod Canal and the Orleans/Eastham Rotary. Cape Cod Commission staff will present a summary of the study. The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization may ask questions and discuss the study. — David Nolan, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Planner

Mr. Nolan gave a powerpoint presentation summarizing the Route 6 Interchange and Shoulder study. The study identified areas of opportunity to improve safety along the limited access portion of Route 6 from the Canal to the Orleans Rotary. The study focused on the analysis of impacts of acceleration and deceleration lane design standards and paved shoulders. The study recommends high priority locations for ramp and shoulder improvements.

Ms. Froman asked if there was any information if vehicle speeds increase with the addition of paved shoulders.

Mr. Nolan stated that this issue was raised as part of the literature review and public outreach efforts. There are pros and cons to paving the shoulder. Currently, there is a safety issue and crash history without shoulders as vehicles have nowhere safe to pullover. The lack of shoulders is also a major issue in the two-lane Route 6 section as there is limited room for vehicles to pullover for emergency vehicles.

Dan Santos noted minor discrepancies on two figures between the powerpoint slides and the final report included in the meeting materials. Mr. Nolan indicated the figures shown in the final report are the latest version.

Mr. Weinstein questioned why the study didn't include the Outer Cape portion of Route 6 from the Orleans Rotary to Provincetown which has its own safety issues and needs to be looked at. Mr. Weinstein also asked for a clarification on where the crash reports were obtained from with this study and the accuracy of the reports used.

Mr. Nolan and Mr. Tupper clarified the crash reports came from the MassDOT state system and the reports are initially supplied by the Towns to the MassRMV. In the past there have been some issues with crash reporting from the towns, but that process has started to improve. They clarified that the limits of this Route 6 study was approved through the MPO and the JTC as it was based on the different characteristics of Route 6 between the Upper/Mid and Outer/Lower Cape. The Route 6 Interchange and Shoulder study focused on the limited-access portion of Route 6 from Bourne to Orleans and focuses on solutions to the overall cross sections. The Outer Cape portion of Route 6 from Orleans to Provincetown has its own challenges with the presence of curb cuts and needs for pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations and requires a set of different solutions. The Commission is currently doing a corridor study on Route 6 in Eastham and MassDOT is also conducting a Complete Streets corridor study on Route 6 in the Outer Cape as well.

Mr. Bergstrom noted the high occurrence of crashes and reoccurring backups at Exit 10 and wonders if extending the ramp lengths at this interchange will make the situation worse or better.

Mr. Tupper noted that any additional length for the acceleration and deceleration ramps would improve the situation for any of the ramp locations. He clarified that MassDOT did extend the ramps lengths as much as they could at Exit 10 a few years ago during a repaving project, but any additional modification would likely require drainage improvements.

Noah Berger asked how the Exit 6 westbound on-ramp from the Park n Ride was handled.

Mr. Nolan clarified that this ramp was included as part of crash analysis and the length was found to be longer than most of the other ramps although it may not be at the most optimal length.

Steve Buckley noted that the Route 6 report included in the meeting handout did not include the public comments section of the Appendix. Mr. Buckley also noted that additional yield pavement markings may be helpful on the Route 6 on- and off-ramp locations.

Mr. Nolan stated that the final report with appendix material can be found on the Commission's website once it is posted.

**Reports – Massachusetts Department of Transportation:** The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) staff will discuss with members the status of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects. The TIP is a recommended list of transportation projects to be advertised and eventually constructed using MassDOT, Federal Highway Administration and/or Federal Transit Administration funding. The Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization members may ask questions and discuss the TIP projects. – MassDOT Staff

Ms. Haznar stated that there is no substantial MassDOT project updates or additional changes since the June MPO meeting update regarding the MassDOT projects within the region.

Ms. Hazner also announced a staffing update that Tim Kochan, a Transportation Planner at District 5, will be retiring at the end of July after 21 years of public service. Cheryll-Ann Senior, who is Tim's assistant and in attendance, will be the new contact going forward. Thank you to Tim for his many years of service at MassDOT.

**Reports – Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority:** Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) staff will report on recent and upcoming transportation initiatives involving the CCRTA. – CCRTA Staff

Tom Cahir gave the following CCRTA Updates:

- As part recently completed statewide RTA Task Force, some funds were made available to the CCRTA to reward innovative and creative ideas. CCRTA is currently working on an on-demand service app, similar to Lyft and Uber, with a pilot program to begin in the Mid-Cape next year.
- Tom will be participating on a new Senate committee focusing on Transportation Policy across the Commonwealth with Tom's focus on sustainability.

- The CCRTA's recent terminal solar project at the Hyannis Transportation Center (HTC) has reduced the Center's energy demand by 92%. In addition, 20 new electric vehicle charging stations were installed at the HTC site.
- The CCRTA is working with the Town of Barnstable to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the near future to explore housing opportunities to develop a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) on the HTC site.
- Cape Flyer seasonal rail service continues to be a success including the new convenient stop under the Bourne Bridge.

**Reports – Cape Cod Commission:** Cape Cod Commission staff will report on recent and upcoming transportation initiatives across Cape Cod. — Cape Cod Commission Transportation Program Manager

Mr. Tupper gave the following CCC Updates:

- The Cape Cod Commission One Cape conference will be held on July 29 and July 30 at the Wequassett Resort in Harwich. The first day of the conference will discuss regional wastewater and environmental issues and the second day will focus on infrastructure and regional planning documents, such as the RTP update.
- Keep an eye out for a potential cancellation of the August MPO meeting as, at this time, there appears to be no voting items required.
- Cape Cod Commission will be launching a new website in the next few weeks which will likely be up and running prior by September.
- Lastly, Mr. Tupper would like to recognize that this is Tom Guerino's last MPO meeting and would like to thank him for his tireless service as the Cape Cod RTA MPO representative for a number of years and best wishes for his future endeavors.

## **Adjourn**

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 by Tom Guerino, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan McClennan, the vote was passed unanimously.

## **Documents and Exhibits**

Agenda, Monday, July 15, 2019  
 DRAFT Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2019 MPO Meeting  
 Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Public Comment Packet  
 DRAFT Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan  
 Air Quality Self Certification Compliance Statement  
 Air Quality Planning Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
 Yarmouth Road BUILD Grant Executive Summary and Draft MPO Support Letter  
 Route 6 Safety Study Final Report, June 2019