

Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)



**Cape Cod Commission Conference Room
3225 Main Street Barnstable, MA 02630**

CAPE COD
COMMISSION

Minutes: Monday, April 22, 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Clinton Bench	Deputy Executive Director, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, (MassDOT) Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)/ Chairman, representing Richard A. Davey, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MassDOT
Austin Knight	Provincetown Selectman, Sub-Region D Rep., (D= Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown)
Jason Steiding	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Ron Bergstrom	Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
Dennis Walsh	Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
Florence Seldin	Town of Chatham, Chair Board of Selectmen; Sub-Region C Alternate Representative (C= Brewster, Harwich, Chatham, and Orleans)
Terry Whalen	Town of Chatham
Mark Ells	Town of Barnstable
William Doherty	MPO Representative, Barnstable County Commissioners
Sallie K. Riggs	Bourne Financial Development Corporation (BFDC)
Richard Leavitt	West Chatham Village & Business Associates
Robert Burgmann, P.E.	Greenman -Pedersen, Inc.
Calli Cenizal	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Timothy Kochan	MassDOT Highway Division District 5
Bill Travers	Mass DOT Highway Division District 5
John Powers	Citizen - Yarmouth, MA
Richard Gulick	Citizen - Chatham, MA
J.D. Harris	CCC Chair
Glenn Cannon, P.E.	CCC Technical Services Director
Priscilla Leclerc	CCC Senior Transportation Planner
Lev Malakhoff	CCC Senior Transportation Engineer
Clay Schofield	CCC Transportation Engineer P.E.
Steven Tupper	CCC Technical Services Planner
Lisa Dillon	CCC Administrative Assistant

Call to order: Chairman Clinton Bench called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and asked all present for self-introductions. For the record, this meeting is being recorded

Minutes of March 4, 2013 MPO meeting

Ron Bergstrom motioned to approve the MPO minutes from the March 4, 2013 meeting. Austin Knight second the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

John Powers expressed concerns with regard to sidewalks on Cape Cod. He stated that there is no place to walk safely and shared his concerns about the safety of children in the street. He commented that school buses are going door to door to pick up the children, instead of a meeting place, slowing down all traffic during times when the buses are on the road.

Mr Bench responded by stating that Mass DOT takes bicycle and pedestrian safety very seriously and it is an ongoing concern. He then explained that during the winter months the HW Division prioritizes cleanup of major public facilities. Looking at the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) he noted that the Cape Cod Commission does a great job prioritizing pedestrian safety.

Mr. Bench thanked John Powers for his comments and asked that he bring back any other concerns.

Massachusetts Transportation Plan: *The Way Forward*

Mr. Bench gave an overview of Transportation Finance which covered 3 scenarios; Governor, House and Senate which are all in process. There is a substantial gap in transportation (roads, bridges and rails) funding on Capitol projects, especially with the ability to operate additional services Public Services, RTA, MBTA or Rail. The Plan has been submitted.

Mr. Bench further explained the bills that the house passed to help close the gap.

House passed a bill bringing 550 million of new revenue to Transportation. The Governor also proposed a \$.03 increase in gas with automatic increase over the upcoming years, \$1.00 increase on the cigarette tax to help close the gap. Increased registry fees will also help bringing us closer to \$800 million per year which comes with the expectation of increasing fees over the years such as tolls or fares. We will also have access to additional funds from underground storage tank remediation fund. The Governor feels more comfortable with that package and hopes that these items bring us closer to the final bill.

Mr. Bergstrom asked if the proposal includes forward funding for the RTA's in the Governors. Mr. Bench responded that it does but not sure if it is in fiscal year 2014 or 2015.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)

Glenn Cannon reviewed the proposed planning tasks for FY 2014 on a power point presentation and included handouts. We are looking for MPO to endorse in June. Please email the staff at the Cape Cod Commission if you want to add a project and will see if we can work it into the budget.

Bill Doherty explained that citizens want to know more about how improvements are determined. What advice does MassDOT have to engage people and promote understanding of funding?

Mr Bench explained that it's a long road, the constituent does not know where the decision gets made and that this is a constant challenge, however one of the most helpful places is at the MPO.

Mr. Doherty commented that the way forward is to provide tactical information as far as the Government is concerned and to provide the public information on the implementation process.

Clinton explained that the public input is the focus at MassDOT.

Florence Seldin asked where the local level fits in specific to the Town of Chatham. There needs to be an understanding of the distribution of funds. They also need to understand that the town is responsible for the funds. There needs to be an understanding of where everyone fits in.

Sue Rohrbach commented that when you talk about the MPO being the body that the state listens to, Sally wonders if the MPO is doing enough of a job between Regional Representatives and their relationship with the Towns. Some regions are not consistently represented. Asks that the definition of the representative's job is clear enough to the towns they are representing.

Mr. Bench commented that that speech could be made at any MPO meeting.

Mr. Bergstrom is in agreement. Is the job of the MPO reps to be involved in the design. What is the specific role of the Representative?

Mr. Bench said that is up to us (MPO) to get into and make that determination.

Rick Leavitt explained that contacting Priscilla at the Cape Cod Commission helped steer him through the process.

Mark Ells commented that using the CCJTC to get details is key to the process and very helpful. It is hard for elected officials to understand the details of their recommendations.

Tom Kochan is in total agreement with Mark Ells. Every JTC delegate should be working closely together with a unified message which is then brought to the MPO.

Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) TIP Amendment FF 2013-2016 Preliminary TIP FFY 2014-2017

2:00 nationwide moment of silence in honor of the victims of the marathon attacks

Priscilla Leclerc emailed packet covering 2014 to 2017 and briefly explained each. There is a new category called TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program), which includes a small amount and guidance for such will follow. She is not sure how that will work at the CCMPO. Pages included the state wide category estimate which will be in the next email. There was a recommendation on TIP day to move the Cape Cod rail trail extension to 2015. That is going to push things around. MassDOT is concerned that we cannot get it done in time to advertise in 2014 with regard to permitting.

Bill Travers said that in his experience is taking up to 18 to 20 months to get a coast guard permit. We may be able to segment the project but that is up to the town to decide.

Mr. Doherty asked it would be helpful to reach out to the Governor

Mr. Travers said that it couldn't hurt.

Ms. Leclerc added that 25% of the project has been designed and could be move forward with permitting.

Mr. Travers added he spoke to the designer and they are not ready at this point in time.

Ms Leclerc commented that there has been an adjustment letter to move the advertising for the Chatham Mitchell River Bridge that has not yet been signed.

Mr. Bergstrom motioned to amend the 2013 to 2014 for Chatham Mitchell River Bridge Project and Bill Doherty 2nd the motion, the vote was Unanimous

Mr. Bench discussed TIP 2014-2017 stating that there have been no adjustments except adding the TAP amount. Cape Cod Rail Trail needs to move out of 2014 and may have to move to 2015 causing a domino effect on other projects.

Reports and Other Information

Mr. Travers explained status of projects ITS. Signs give travel times on the cape is progressing, will be advertised this year, temporary message boards will be up this summer. Falmouth – 2 intersections on Rt 28, expecting 100's any day now slight delay waiting for info on water main. Orleans intersection 28 & 6A on target. Resurfacing of Rt6 Bourne to Barnstable town line has been awarded – will be shut down for the summer. Project for Sandwich, 6A, Scorton Creek is in the 25 stage. Barnstable, Pearl St met with town to be removed from TIP and they have agreed. Barnstable intersection of Rt 28 and Bearses Way, 25 Stage– submission expected in the fall. Harwich Rt 28 also 25's due this fall – town responsible for design. Orleans 2 separate intersections 6a and

Main St and 28 Main St – MassDOT is at 25 stage – to upgrade signals, expected this fall. Barnstable Intersection of 28 and Iyannough Rd and Yarmouth Rd – 25 status – resurfacing of Rt 6 as we get closer they will begin work.

Mr. Doherty asked for clarification on the bass river bridge project – suggested that the MPO be allowed to send letter to Senator Keating.

Mr. Bench suggested that we wait until we have more information before we take action.

Observed a moment of silence for Marathon Victims.

Dennis Walsh announced that preparations are underway for the Memorial Day startup of the CapeFlyer, all information is available on line @ capeflyer.com.

Mr. Harris asked if the DPW has considered adopting a new policy for the public regarding historic districts and sidewalk to keep them informed. Also asked if there has there been an assessment on mobility gaps on a regional basis of towns? This way we can consolidate needs rather than fragmented attempts.

Mr said yes, a list has been developed to assess the mobility gaps and a report has been put together which is published on mass.dot website. He feels that education needs to happen on the Bay State Roads program and will bring that information to them.

Mr. Harris suggested putting a video to put on the website for the public.

Ms. Seldin suggested that we check out the WC.ROADWAY.INFO – very informative

Other Business / Next Meetings: Monday, May 20@ 1:00, June 24th @ 1:00

ADJOURN 3:00 pm