

Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

MPO Members in Attendance

David Mohler
Pamela Haznar
Leo Cakounes
Jessica Rapp Grassetti
R. Patrick Ellis
Sims McGrath
Robert Weinstein
Tom Guerino
Richard Roy
Jason Steidling

Representing

MassDOT, Office of Transportation Planning, representing Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary/Chief Executive Director
MassDOT Highway Division, District 5 representing Thomas Tinlin, MassDOT Acting Highway Administrator
Barnstable County Commissioners
Barnstable Town Council
Sub Region A: Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee and Sandwich
Sub Region C: Brewster, Chatham, Harwich and Orleans
Sub Region D: Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro and Provincetown
Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
Cape Cod Commission
Wampanoag Public Works Director, representing Cedric Cromwell, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council Chairman

Others in Attendance

Gabriel Sherman
Tim Kochan
Terry Whalen
Frank Nichols
Clay Schofield
John Fuller
Sallie Riggs
Stephen Buckley
Patty Daley
Jessica Wielgus
Martha Hevenor
Glenn Cannon
Steven Tupper
Lev Malakhoff
Patrick Tierney
Lisa Dillon

Representing

MassDOT, OTP Liaison
MassDOT Highway Division, District 5
Chatham, Town of, DPW
Orleans, Town of, DPW
Barnstable, Town of, DPW
Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
Bourne Financial Development Corporation
openchatham.com
Cape Cod Commission, Deputy Director
Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission

Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 and asked that the members of the committee and the public introduce themselves.

Minutes of February 22, 2016:

Upon a motion to approve the DRAFT minutes of February 22, 2016 by Tom Guerino, second by Sims McGrath, the vote was passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Steve Buckley commented that there was an item that came up at the last meeting regarding the Mid-Cape Highway signs and an article in the Cape Cod Times and had not been on the Agenda. If you go to openchatham.com you will see a link to the article printed in the Cape Cod Times. The article didn't make it clear as to whether procedures were being followed as legal requirements for public involvement. Mr. Buckley added to that the fact that there was no public information given on the clear cutting of the Mid-Cape Highway median stating that it raises questions as to whether this is a pattern or an exception. From his experience it has not been the exception. He would like to officially ask an item be placed on next month's agenda with a response from MassDOT /Federal Highway Administration on whether procedures are being followed for public involvement. Mr. Buckley recently watched a video on Jane Garvey and she stated that the #1 challenge at MassDOT is the tendency to decide then defend; people are excluded from the decisions. He would like to officially request that the MPO report on whether or not the highway signs project was according to procedures and regulations of public involvement were followed as well as report on the mid-cape clearing. He feels that it is the MPO's responsibility to comply with public involvement requirements.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Capital Investment Plan: The Capital Investment Plan (CIP) determines how MassDOT prioritizes large investments, covering all transportation projects from municipal projects to regional airports, including highway, rail and transit, MBTA and Regional Transit Authorities projects. MassDOT staff will give a presentation explaining the Capital Investment Plan process. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss the Capital Investment Plan process. – David Mohler, MassDOT Director of Strategic Planning

Mr. Mohler explained that the CIP is a 5 year Capital planning document for Massachusetts. There was a discussion on March 16 primarily about process and got through the prioritization of projects. The CIP includes the TIP. The list of projects will be released in April to the Committee then released for public comment and will be seeking approval in May/June.

Complete Streets Policy: Cape Cod Commission staff will present a draft Complete Streets policy to those in attendance to encourage municipalities to regularly and routinely include complete streets design elements and infrastructure on roads. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss the draft Complete Streets policy that is presented. - Steve Tupper, CCC Transportation Planner

Mr. Tupper presented a power point. The presentation included the definition of a Complete Street, Benefits, Context Sensitivity, MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program Background and Eligibility, Complete Streets Policy Scoring and a Cape Cod Complete Streets Draft Policy.

Mr. Cakounes asked if Street Signs were included in the policy and Mr. Tupper stated that they were. Mr. Cakounes also asked about the Tier 3 funding and if the \$400k available per community is a one time thing. Mr. Tupper stated that as of now, yes it is but there is anticipation that other funding will become available. This policy will position a community well for future funding.

Mr. Mohler indicated that in the DRAFT CIP, the \$12.5 million is possibly turning into \$50 million over 5 years. Mr. Cannon stated that MassDOT is advocating spending some of that money this year, which will be tough therefore we are hoping that it will roll over into the next year.

Mr. Weinstein asked a question about a letter from MassDOT regarding Rte. 6 to Provincetown regarding bicycle accessibility. He stated that this group has been discussing safety as well as the Wellfleet, Main Street and Rte. 6 project which has a MassDOT project number. As far as he is aware, Truro is not tied into the Complete Streets Policy. He asked who attends meeting to find out what funds are available and how can Complete Streets policy help a town facilitate improvements. Mr. Tupper stated that this specific project will be discussed in a future meeting. As far as outreach to the communities, the DPW director was at the CCJTC and is aware of the project.

Mr. Ellis stated that the difference between this program and Chapter 90 is that the Chapter 90 program requires an appropriation by the town. The town enters into a contract with the Complete Street Program the state reimburses from that contract. It won't be necessary for towns to go to town meeting and appropriate the money.

Mr. Cakounes added that it's the only way to get things done in the short time frame as town meetings are closed, unless there was a special town meeting. He feels that it's important to get out to people as this can move forward without town action. Mr. Cannon stated that at this point he is looking to get the towns to move forward with Tier 1, then Tier 2 etc.

Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program Project Evaluation Criteria: Cape Cod Commission staff will describe the proposed project evaluation criteria scoring system to be used on future projects included in the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 – 2021 Transportation Improvement Program. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss and potentially vote to make recommendations on the criteria to be used in the proposed project selection criteria scoring system. - Steve Tupper, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Planner

Mr. Tupper presented a power point. The presentation included an explanation of the program, Project Selection criteria, Existing Project Evaluation Approach, Potential Revision Considerations, Project Evaluation Criteria Revision Process and DRAFT Project Evaluation Criteria.

Mr. Tupper explained that the scores came from the Project Selection Advisory Committee and the CCJTC did weigh in on these numbers. Mr. Cakounes asked if we went through an exercise of taking the new criteria and apply it to the projects currently in the pipeline. Mr. Tupper stated that a small samplings of projects were evaluated but all projects will be evaluated before the next Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC) and scores were consistent.

Ms. Grassetti asked for examples of modern technology. Mr. Tupper explained that things such as traffic counting equipment within the signal controls, advanced signal controls that adapt based on traffic volumes along with emergency preemption systems in key corridors for emergency situations are a few examples.

Mr. Kochan indicated that the rationale for PCAC to score high in the cost effectiveness category is so that the decision makers at both state and regional levels can look at the number of projects up for consideration and determine which of the projects are more cost effective. Mr. Guerino disagrees with this thought. He feels that when you look at things in this way, the smaller communities will end up getting bounced. Mr. Cannon stated that the JTC asked the Cape Cod Commission to look at every project in the queue. He added that in compliance with Title VI law, are projects will be evaluated.

Mr. Cakounes stated that he represents the smaller towns and would feel comfortable if there was an economic development component in the project evaluation scoring, as our existence is vital to summer traffic. Mr. Cannon said it is not too late to adopt our own process and work with the state until we are all in agreement.

2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development: The TIP is a recommended list of transportation projects to be advertised and eventually constructed using Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funding for Federal Fiscal Years 2017 to 2021 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021). Cape Cod Commission staff will give a presentation further explaining the process of developing the TIP. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss which potential projects from any of the Cape Cod Towns could be included in the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). - Steve Tupper, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Planner

Mr. Tupper presented a power point. The presentation included an explanation of the TIP program, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), FFY 2017-2021 DRAFT Regional Target for Highway Funding for MPO Projects, FFY 2016-19 MPO Highway Projects as programmed, FFY 2017-21 MPO Highway Project Discussion, a list of the Current Unprogrammed Projects, Cape Cod 2016-19 TIP Statewide Program Highway Projects, and the TIP Development Schedule.

Mr. McGrath stated that there have been many conversations about ROW issues. It appears to be a stumbling block on the schedule with a number of projects. If it comes up this often, maybe it is worth coming up with a way to integrate the process differently.

Ms. Haznar stated the ROW process cannot begin until a project is at 75% design. The ROW tasks include title searches, meeting with abutters, etc. and cannot begin until the design has been submitted. She added that town meetings occur in May which means that the project needs to be ready the year before, not in the year that it is being advertised. Mr. McGrath added that each project is unique but if there is an analysis done and it turns out that someone is handling that would be helpful to avoid disappointment.

Mr. Cannon stated that a 5 year TIP could help with the ROW process. If you follow the MassDOT guidelines for project design, there is a timeframe outlined. If you are not within these guidelines you may have to fall back a year. We will have to discuss this moving forward. Mr. Cannon attended a statewide meeting and MassDOT and other regional planning agencies, some had multiples project that being required to drop down a year.

Ms. Haznar stated that she has been working with the ROW section for guidance on the process which would help set expectations.

Mr. Cakounes asked where the sign project is listed. Mr. Tupper explained that only state project within our jurisdiction are listed. Ms. Haznar stated that she doesn't have much to report on this project but that there are ongoing discussions at the highest levels of MassDOT. This project will not be moving forward until robust outreach has been done as well as scheduling a design public hearing. Ms. Grassetti added that she is concerned that if there is a delay in the project it will become a safety issue as the signs are difficult to read. In the meantime there should be improvements made to the current signs. Patty Daley questioned the contract for sign stickering asking if that would be going forward. Ms. Haznar stated that the project was advertised but doesn't have a schedule of when it will advance and is wrapped into the sign replacement project.

Mr. Cannon stated that he heard from an MPO about the concern for some of the smaller projects such as adding a sidewalk to an existing roadway. One particular place that was mentioned was between the Mashpee Rotary and Quinaquisset Rd in Mashpee. Bicycles must ride on Rte. 28 at this location. Ms. Grassetti added that Quinaquisset has been changed so it a right turn only. Now people are taking the turn, going up to Meeting House Rd and making a U turn heading back to the Mashpee Rotary and it is extremely dangerous. There are steep grade changes there as well as sign issues. She is suggesting that it be looked at for left hand turn restrictions and directing traffic up to Orchard Rd to use the lights. She has reached out to the Town of Mashpee with these concerns.

Mr. Cakounes asked to look at the 2016-2019 project lists and asked if there has been discussion about moving the Chatham project and Mr. Tupper said that we would be discussing options at the next meeting.

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority Comprehensive Service Assessment: Cape Cod Commission staff on behalf of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) has completed a Comprehensive Service Assessment of the existing operations at the CCRTA to meet the mobility needs of residents, human service agency consumers and visitors to Cape Cod. Commission staff will present the finding of this study to the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization. - Patrick Tierney, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Planner

Mr. Tierney presented a power point. The presentation included the Major Findings of the Assessment, Total Annual CCRTA Ridership chart, Cape Cod Public Transit System Map, a Report Outline, Households with No Vehicle Map, Workforce Density Map, Cape Cod Points of Interest Map, Assessment summaries of Fixed Route Monthly Ridership, Seasonal fixed Routes, Seasonal Services Monthly Ridership, Demand Response Services, Performance Analysis, and Recommended Service Scenarios.

Mr. Cakounes asked how we are comparing the actual buses and the number of times going out with riders going a further distance. Mr. Tierney stated that we looked at the passengers per mile. Mr. Cakounes asked if we looked at redesigning the system such as overlapping routes or using smaller vehicles.

John Fuller stated the next round of buses being purchased next year will include smaller vehicles. He added that they work hard to minimize DART services. When someone calls for the service, they are first deferred to fixed route if possible, if not they try to get as many passengers as possible scheduled.

Mr. Cakounes stated that there is an issue in Barnstable where they are looking to move the shelter and consolidate the services. He had been asked by the County Commission to meet with the Town and bring ideas forward. The first question that comes up with another location is the RTA's ability to work with the town on that service and a location being discussed is the Gosnold Facility. Mr. Fuller stated that the Town of Barnstable just requested information and it has been sent. Mr. Fuller stated that a request like that can be accommodated very quickly.

Mr. Fuller also stated that new lights are being considered at all stops as well as other safety infrastructure for pedestrians as requested by Ms. Grassetti.

Mr. Guerino stated at the last CCRTA group meeting last week, the Executive Director at the Cape Cod Chamber is talking about the workforce on the MidCape. The RTA may want to look building up ridership on the Bourne.

Mr. Cannon thanked the CCRTA staff particularly Cathy Lynds and John Fuller for their efforts in assisting with this work.

Mr. McGrath stated that the CCRTA has been very helpful with the Council on Aging (COA) and reducing DART calls. How can we integrate this with the fixed routes? Mr. Fuller stated that the CCRTA is starting a travel training program which will concentrate on the COA's. They provide a critical service that the CCRTA cannot provide. We can only go from the door to assist, we cannot step inside a home, and this is a federal law.

Reports: MassDOT Highway Division District 5 Staff will give a status report on existing and planned transportation projects underway across Cape Cod. Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority and Cape Cod Commission staff will report on recent staff activities.

Pam Haznar gave the following massDOT updates on previously reported projects:

2016 Projects:

- Orleans, Intersection improvements at Rte. 6A/Main St and Rte. 28/Main St is scheduled to be advertised 8/6/16
- Dennis-Yarmouth, Construction of a multi-use path over the Bass River includes new pedestrian bridge is on track
- Chatham, Improvements at Rte. 28 from George Ryder Rd to Barn Hill Rd – 100% submission and revised right of way plans are due late spring. There is a chance for this project to 2017 so have enough time for the ROW process
- Barnstable, Intersection & signal improvements at Rte. 28 at Strawberry Hill Rd – 25% submission is due 2/26/16- **No submission to date**
- Barnstable, Lighting and landscaping of the roundabout at the Rte. 6 eastbound exit ramp & Rte. 149 – 100% submission is due in mid-March. There is a local resident that is interested in maintaining the landscaping at the location
- Sandwich, Barnstable, Yarmouth, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans – Guide & traffic sign replacement on Rte. 6
MassDOT will follow up on this project

2017 Projects:

- Dennis, Corridor Improvements on Rte. 28 from Dennis Commons Drive to Upper county Rd – 75% design due 2/18/16. This project required 132 right of way actions – **Received the 75% design plans and they are under review**
- Falmouth, Intersection improvements at Rte. 28A and Rte. 151 at 25% design and is under review
- Harwich, Brewster, Orleans – Resurfacing & related work on Rte. 6 – This project will be advanced in-house and storm water Best Management Practice (BMPs) will be included in design
- Barnstable, Intersection improvements at Rte. 28 & Osterville-West Barnstable Rd – MassDOT comments on revised 25% plans submitted to the design engineer

- Barnstable-Yarmouth, CCRT extension from Station Ave, Yarmouth to Mary Dunn Rd in Barnstable is at 25% design

2018 Projects:

- Barnstable, Intersection improvements at Rte. 28 and Yarmouth Rd – A design public hearing was held last week and there is great support for this project which is at 25% design. Mr. Cannon added that he also attended the public hearing last week stating that there was not one negative comment. Support from the bicycle/pedestrian community. Ms. Haznar also stated that there were also prior meeting and abutters where notified and MassDOT had one on one meeting with them. Mr. Cannon added that there was a representative at the PH also
- Wellfleet, Intersection improvements at Rte. 6 and Main St are at pre 25% design, a road safety audit will be held in late February early March – **A roadway safety audit is scheduled for March 30, 2016**

2019 Projects:

- Chatham, Intersection improvements at Rte. 28/Depot Rd/Queen Anne Rd/Crowell Rd – Public outreach meeting hold in June, 2015 the consultant is to perform additional data collection and present alternative to the town in late winter early spring 2016
- Bourne, Traffic improvements @ Belmont Circle at Routes 6/28/25/Main Street – at 25% design, Public Informational Meetings have been held to present study findings and solicit comments for potential improvements. DRAFT final report submitted to district in June 2015. Short, mid and long term recommendations included
- Mashpee, Corridor improvements on Rte. 151 from Mashpee Rotary to Falmouth town line – pre 25% design, proposed to be programmed in 2 yrs., 2nd being 2020

Projects awaiting funding – pending PRC approval:

- Dennis-Yarmouth, resurfacing and related work on Rte. 6 – **If Chatham does slip out of 2016, this project will be ready for 2016**
- Truro, Bicycle accommodation improvements on Rte. 6 – **This is an in house project that is being worked on with Jay Norton. MassDOT will be meeting with the Town and plan to have a public meeting and continue to advance the project**
- Shared use path in Sandwich adjacent to the Service Rd looking to connect the Cape Cod Rail Trail in Barnstable

Mr. Cannon gave the following Cape Cod Commission updates:

- MassDOT did have a Canal Area Study and the model is being worked on. This is a very detailed project because of the seasonal nature as well as the challenge between the sub regions. The next meeting will dive into the changes and alternatives of the roadways. The public will be most interested in these meetings
- There was a Shining Seas Feasibility Study where 40 local residents of which 39 were in favor. Continued public outreach will be performed
- Attended an Old Colony Planning Council, MPO certification which is every 4 years. They are ahead of us but it's beneficial to see how Federal Highway is approaching things and what type of data they are looking for

Mr. Guerino added that the Town of Bourne is getting frustrated. He stated that he can see some friction with people on each side on the bridge, which was discussed at that meeting. We need to work together on that.

Mr. Ellis asked what the plan is to release the Canal Study. Mr. Cannon stated that there is no release date yet. Meetings will be scheduled on an as needed basis.

Ms. Grassetti asked when it was appropriate to discuss future projects to be entered into the TIP. Specifically Rte. 130, Main Street Cotuit to Santuit Newtown Road. Mr. Cannon stated that it may come up next year depends on the scope of the project and public outreach is performed.

Mr. Buckley stated that this is an example of the tendency to want to get the data to justify a decision in a direction of where you are going. A Study group is not advertised and idea is already cooked, rather than tasted before. People want to know what's going on before the fix is in. Where is the window of opportunity for the people to weigh in on the concept?

Mr. Cannon stated that we are discussing different types of projects being a TIP project or a planning study. The Canal Area is a planning study.

Mr. Guerino added that the process on the Cape Cod Study has been a very open process with a lot of publication, advertising, postings on various websites.

Next Meeting, April 25 @ 1:00 pm

Adjourn

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 pm my Jessica Rapp Grassetti, second by Tom Guerino the vote was passed unanimously

Documents and Exhibits:

Email message from Steven Buckley dated 2/22/16

Links from Steven Buckley

Project overview from the MassDOT website for the West Chatham Roadway Design Project, Rte. 28

Complete Streets Model Policy Power Point

TIP Project Evaluation Criteria Power Point

Project Evaluation Scoring Template

TIP FY 2017-2021 Development

Comprehensive Service Assessment Power Point