

Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

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CAPE COD
COMMISSION

MPO Members in Attendance

Trey Wadsworth

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

Pamela Haznar

Michael Chong
Leah Sirmin

Representing

MassDOT, Office of Transportation Planning, representing Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary/Chief Executive Director
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
MassDOT Highway Division, District 5 representing Tim Tinlin, MassDOT Acting Highway Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Highway Administration, representing Pamela S. Stephenson, FHWA Division Administrator (non-voting)

Others in Attendance

Lance Lambros
Gabriel Sherman
Bill Travers
Tom Temple
Terry Whalen
Frank Nichols
Clay Schofield
John Fuller
Stephen Buckley
Mananjo Jonahson
Patty Daley
Jessica Wielgus
Martha Hevenor
Glenn Cannon
Cally Harper
Steven Tupper
Lev Malakhoff
Patrick Tierney
Lisa Dillon

Representing

Representing, Senator deMacedo
MassDOT, OTP Liaison
MassDOT Highway Division, District 5
Chatham, Town of
Chatham, Town of
Orleans, Town of
Barnstable, Town of
Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
openchatham.com
Falmouth Resident
Cape Cod Commission, Deputy Director
Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission
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Cape Cod Commission
Cape Cod Commission

Minutes of July 20, 2015:

Upon a motion to approve the DRAFT minutes of July 20, 2015 by Jessica Rapp Grassetti, second by Sims McGrath, the vote was passed unanimously. Tom Guerino abstained from the vote.

Public Comments:

Steven Buckley commented on the Rte. 28 West Chatham project and stated that it was getting close to 100% design. He stated that MassDOT released an online planning document for the West Chatham Roadway Design Project and it is available for public comment. The document is a categorical exclusion checklist (see attached). Mr. Buckley pointed out that there was an article in the Cape Cod Chronicle and that article stated that according to the Categorical Exclusion checklist, there will be no environmental impact. Mr. Buckley stated that the people that write these documents (MassDOT) know that environmental means traffic safety and they also know that the average person does not know this yet. They put out a statement that they confirmed there is no substantial controversy with the project with regards to Environmental Impact. MassDOT is aware that there has been substantial controversy over the past several years on this project. He stated that the town does not want to talk about this and they are aware that there has been substantial controversy. The people are frustrated as they see this as a rigged system with predetermined results. Mr. Buckley will be posting his comments later but wanted to show they group where to find the project files on line.

Lance Lambros from Senator deMacedos' office stated that he received a letter last week discussing the new signs on Route 6 regarding changing the current Route 6 exit numbers based on numerical mile markers. He has not had an opportunity to discuss with the full cape delegation but everyone up to this point is against these changes. The delegation is upset that they were not consulted during the decision making process. He said to expect that a delegation letter will be sent in opposition and he looks forward to being included in these discussions moving forward.

Global Warming Solutions Act Self Certification Compliance Statement: Vote of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) whether to endorse or not the Global Warming Solutions Act Self Certification Compliance Statement. which is a list of all Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects that have been analyzed for Green House Gas emissions and whose results are anticipated to be included in MassDOT state wide Green House Gas impact assessment – Lev Malakhoff, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Engineer

Mr. Malakhoff presented the amended Self Certification Compliance Statement for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. He stated that the form in the meeting packet listed items 1 – 11, but MassDOT came back with a revised form today with a list of items 1 – 7. Mr. Wadsworth explained that these items were condensed as there was some redundancy. He stated that this will be annual document with the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as well as every 4 years with Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The document was sent around the table for signatures.

Mr. Cakounes asked if we are in compliance with these requirements and Mr. Wadsworth stated that we are.

Upon a motion to approve the amended statement by Tom Guerino, second by Jessica Rapp Grasseti, the vote was passed unanimously

Cape Cod Commission Bike Rack Program: Cape Cod Commission staff will describe the Cape Cod Bike Rack Program. Last year, the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization approved funding to allow Towns in Barnstable County to be reimbursed for bike rack purchases. Commission staff will explain the process to implement this program. – Lev Malakhoff, Cape Cod Commission Senior Transportation Engineer

Mr. Malakhoff presented a power point. The presentation included the Proposed Program Summary, Site Location, Installation Guidelines, Outdoor Bike Parking, Sidewalk Parking, Indoor Parking, Examples of Bike Racks, Upcoming Outreach and Participation Guidelines.

Mr. Wadsworth stated that MassDOT was excited about moving forward with this project on the Cape but forgot to ask Federal Highway for approval. They are in process of approving that now.

Mr. Cannon stated that these types of projects are great fillers as it is difficult to find roadway projects to fill in funding gaps of less than \$1 million.

Mr. Cakounes asked if there is an opportunity for a member of the Community to ask for a waiver to the requirement that the bike racks be placed on public land. Mr. Malakhoff stated that this would be a MassDOT decision but we could help getting the racks ordered at a discounted rate. An example of this might be a restaurant. Mr. Cannon stated that we are looking at the congested downtown areas. Mr. Cakounes suggested that we include some kind of language in the document so that we have flexibility with that option moving forward.

2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustment: Vote of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to adjust the TIP (The TIP is a recommended list of transportation projects to be advertised and eventually constructed using MassDOT, FHWA and FTA funding for Federal Fiscal Years 2016 to 2019) - Steve Tupper, CCC Technical Services Planner

Mr. Tupper reviewed the letter to Mr. Mohler at MassDOT from the Cape Cod Commission with the 2016-2019 TIP adjustment request.

Ms. Haznar stated that the Route 6 project is part of a nationwide initiative to renumber limited access highways to coordinate with the mile markers. Ms. Haznar presented the proposed changes and indicated that this project will also improve retro reflectivity.

Mr. Lambros stated that a problem that local businesses have is that directions on all of their literature/brochures are already printed and this was not a consideration when considering renumbering the signs. He is representing Senator DeMacedo as well as the full Cape Delegation. They should have been involved in the discussions to make these changes. They understand the retro reflectivity and safety aspect however the Cape is not like the rest of the state. Cantilever signs do not fit the community character in the Delegation's opinion. Although we strive for safety first, even if we get the federal money, there will be opposition from the elected officials on Cape Cod. Can we get the enabling regulations from the Fed's stating that we won't give you money unless you do this? The reality is that the Cape Delegation would rather see that money go to improving our bridges, roads and infrastructure.

Ms. Haznar stated that she will bring this message back and stated that there will be a public hearing which will be advertised. Mr. Cannon asked who at the Boston office is making these decisions so that we can have a meeting with that person so that we can make changes that the Delegation would like to see. Mr. Lambros stated that the Delegation is speaking with the Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Cakounes asked if at the public hearing will people actually be listened to or is it a done deal?

Ms. Haznar stated that these meetings are typically held at night so that the public can attend and that the point of the meeting is to solicit public input.

Mr. Cannon suggested that we come back with more information at the next MPO meeting as an agenda item.

Mr. Wadsworth stated that this project is currently funded in the TIP, we would actually have to defund from this region with the proposed action. If we leave it as it is, the project will be funded.

Sims McGrath stated that this is an accounting issue, not about whether or not the job will get done and until there is a public hearing the intent is a foregone conclusion. He commented that cantilever signs are not appropriate for the region. He also feels that it makes sense to renumber the signs and has seen it done in other areas and most always there is a sign stating "formerly exit #"

Mr. Wadsworth added that we do take public comments on the STIP amendment as well, which is a positive change. He welcomes everyone to participate. See Glenn to be added to that outreach list.

Ms. Haznar stated that the current advertising date is September 2016 and construction will be in spring 2017.

Mr. Guerino is concerned that various service signs will be removed and will they be replaced. Mr. Wadsworth stated that he cannot answer that question today; there is a very lengthy process to get direction signs approved.

Patty Daley asked for confirmation that the Route 6 exit renumbering of the signs would begin in the fall indicating that was the understanding after speaking with the Boston office. Ms. Haznar will follow up on this.

Mr. Wadsworth indicated that as the project develops and there is more information available, he will work with Mr. Cannon on the appropriate time for further discussion.

Upon a motion to accept the TIP adjustment by Tom Guerino, second by Patrick Ellis, the vote was passed, Leo Cakounes opposed.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Capital Investment Plan: The Capital Investment Plan (CIP) determines how MassDOT prioritizes largest 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. - Trey Wadsworth

Mr. Wadsworth gave an explanation of the Capital Investment Plan Process, stating that MassDOT is in the process of updating the 5 year plan looking at all comprehensive projects from Highway, Transit, MBTA, RMV, IT Department as well as Aviation. At this stage the Capital Investment Plan Subcommittee is discussing the program size, and different types of funding, and level for each type. He believes that in March/April the full portfolio will be released for public comment as well as a preview of projects. We are using the Project Selection Counsel Criteria to evaluate and score all projects and that 300 highway projects have been scored, as well as Transit Investments. There was analysis done on the scoring and determined that MassDOT is more generous than MPO scoring.

Mr. McGrath commented that there must be an intersection between the states Long Range Capital Improvement Plan and Coastal Resiliency, there are a number of state roads that are overtopped on a regular basis one being in Orleans another in Dennis and should be part of the state's conversations. Mr. Wadsworth stated that MassDOT is conducting other Resiliency planning for the state and other infrastructure assets and the hope is to incorporate these into the 2018-2022 CIP.

Terry Whalen asked if the intent was to include aviation in MPO projects and Mr. Wadsworth stated that anything that is "in state of good repair" has been left to the asset performance models to do the prioritization. There is a system with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to prioritize those projects. The CIP process comes into play when there are state or federal funds involved. It is MassDOT policy to leverage every dollar.

Mr. Cannon stated that MassDOT is taking on more work than ever and trying to bring everything under one umbrella with all modes of transportation; Air, rail, highway, etc. Mr. Wadsworth stated that there are 5200 project that need to be scored. Mr. Haznar added that there have been weekly meetings since Thanksgiving and that approx. 300 projects have been scored to date. There are several categories used in the scoring system and Coastal Resiliency is in the Environmental Category as a subcategories. These categories are listed on MassDOT website.

Michael Chong asked if MassDOT has worked on what the linkage would be for the CIP/TIP/STIP and are we scoring projects in the existing TIP or projects in the future years. Will the MPO score projects that come out of the CIP? Mr. Wadsworth stated that 2016 projects are not being scored, if a 2017 project is at pre 75% design, we are looking to score those project. MassDOT has asked the MPO to accelerate the TIP development to June this year so that the STIP and CIP are adopted by the end of the fiscal year. Moving forward, MassDOT would like to schedule the TIP earlier so that we can include all the MPO selected projects in STIP first then CIP.

Mr. Wadsworth stated that Secretary Stephanie Pollack has asked us to coordinate the way communities initiate a project and the way they ask the MPO to fund projects, once determined, these projects will automatically be considered by the MPO.

Mr. Cannon stated that we are working on our project selection criteria now and working with the Joint Transportation Committee to put the form in place. We are trying to align with state. He feels that some projects that are not selected for the TIP may potentially be selected in the CIP.

Ms. Haznar added that when MassDOT receives a project needs form; she likes to set up a meeting with the proponent and ask the regional planning agency to attend.

Federal Fiscal Year 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): The UPWP is a list of transportation planning projects scheduled for funding and implementation as outlined in the Federal Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017) UPWP document. Cape Cod Commission staff will give a presentation outlining the planning process that leads to development of the UPWP. The Metropolitan Planning Organization will discuss potential planning projects for inclusion into the UPWP. - Glenn Cannon, Cape Cod Commission Director of Technical Services

Mr. Cannon presented a power point. The presentation included slides that listed Tasks 1 – 4 and included a DRAFT funding summary.

Climate Change Transportation Resiliency: Cape Cod Commission staff will give an introduction to an upcoming Coastal Resiliency Project for Cape Cod. This project will include vulnerable transportation infrastructure and strategies to make this infrastructure more resilient to climate change. – Cally Harper, Cape Cod Commission Planner II

Dr. Harper presented a power point. She explained that planning for resilient transportation infrastructure on Cape Cod is an ongoing activity under Task 3.4 of the UPWP. As part of this Task, resilient & vulnerable assets were identified and ranked in the Outer Cape and eventually on the remainder of Cape Cod. The barriers for implementing resilient measures include insufficient funding, lack of technical assistance and education. The Cape Cod Commission was awarded a \$780,000.00 under the NOAA Regional Coastal Resilience Grant. The project will be starting March 2016 and will need input from the DPW Directors and stakeholders. Specifically the Cape Cod Commission will “road test” the tool and performs ongoing engagement to address the impacts from climate change.

Provincetown Traffic Circulation and Parking Study: Cape Cod Commission staff has completed a Traffic Circulation and Parking Study for the Town of Provincetown. Commission staff will present the finding of this study to the CCMPO. - Patrick Tierney, Cape Cod Commission Technical Services Planner

Mr. Tierney presented a power point. The presentation outlines the data collection, travel patterns, problem identification, and suggested alternatives.

Mr. Cakounes asked if we had data to look at regarding shuttle service. If there is a remote parking lot with continuous transit service, will people use that parking lot? Mr. Cannon indicated that typically they do not. People prefer to drive directly into town.

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:

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
- 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
- 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

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
- Truro, Bicycle accommodation improvements on Rte. 6
- Shared use path in Sandwich adjacent to the Service Rd looking to connect the Cape Cod Rail Trail in Barnstable

Tom Guerino stated that the Adams Street, Bourne project it's working out very well and thanked MassDOT.

Patrick Ellis stated that the administration favors the chapter 90 program He urged the committee to contact the State Reps regarding Chapter 90 funds which are related to transportation as towns are using these funds to design projects for the TIP. There is apprehension in add additional funding.

John Fuller, CCRTA stated that with the support of the MPO, last year the CCRTA received a CMAQ grant to institute the Hyannis Loop. The service started in September and ridership was just under 5000 during the first 4 months. The Hyannis villager in the first 7 months is up by 2.7%. These are encouraging numbers.

Mr. Cannon reported that there was a road safety audit conducted in 6 locations on Rte. 28 with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. There is a potential for funding to come from the tribe for roadway repairs.

The Cape Cod Commission is looking at the Shining Sea Bike Path once this is complete, the entire path from Woods Hole to Provincetown will have been reviewed

Adjourn

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 pm my Sims McGrath, 2nd by Patrick Ellis, the vote was passed unanimously

Documents and Exhibits:

MPO Agenda, February 22, 2016

DRAFT minutes, July 20, 2015

Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for the Transportation Sector and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Cape Cod Commission Bike Rack Program power point

Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Federal Fiscal Year 2016-2019, Endorsed July 20, 2016, Adjusted February 16, 2016

TIP adjustment letter dated 2/16/16 to David Mohler, MassDOT from Glenn Cannon, Cape Cod Commission
Proposed FY 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), power point
Climate Change Transportation Resiliency, power point
Provincetown Parking & Circulation Study, power point
Email from Stephen Buckley dated 2/18/16, Subject: Public Comments at MPO, listing website links to reference