



CAPE COD
COMMISSION

2017 Traffic Counting Report for Cape Cod Massachusetts

Prepared in cooperation with:

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



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Executive Summary

The Cape Cod Commission (formerly the Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission) has completed 34 summer seasons in the ongoing Traffic Counting Program. The Cape Cod Commission adds new locations and updates existing ones each year. Over 1,300 different locations on Cape Cod have been counted at least once, and over 6,920 counts have been performed since the program began. The result of the Traffic Counting Program is a useful database of traffic volume information for transportation planning.

In 2017, **the Commission's Traffic Counting Program included 207** weekday automatic traffic recorder (ATR) counts, listed in Appendix A. Over a 10-year period (2007-2017), summer traffic Cape-wide has slightly increased an average 0.37% per year. The past year (2016-2017) has seen an overall increase in Cape-wide summer traffic of 1.28%. Data obtained from **the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's permanent** counting stations and are included in tables separate from the counts **done by the Commission's program. This year, the Commission's staff also** collected 36 weekend counts, which are included in Appendix C.

In addition to ATR counts, in total, the Traffic Counting Program has completed over 1,053 turning movement counts (TMCs), over 403 park-and-ride lot observations, and 64 bicycle and pedestrian studies. Year-round monthly data from the Commission's three remote counting stations (two in Harwich, one in Barnstable) provide a view of the seasonal traffic changes in the Mid- and Lower Cape sub-regions. Results of these efforts are presented in the Appendices D through H.

Local, state, and federal officials, engineers, transportation planners, and many other organizations and individuals use the traffic counting data. The information is used to perform traffic impact studies for new developments, analyze existing traffic demands on Cape Cod's roads, and identify ways to improve traffic flow and safety. The Commission expects to continue to expand and update this important database for transportation planning.



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1. Introduction

This report summarizes traffic counts conducted between 2007 and 2017 by the Cape Cod Commission (previously the Cape Cod Planning and Economic Development Commission). Traffic count locations are selected based on recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), town officials, members of the Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee, and the Cape Cod Commission transportation staff.

Since 1989, the Commission staff has used automatic traffic recorders (**ATRs**) to conduct traffic counts. Earlier counts used “paper-punch” traffic counting equipment. ATR technology has advanced over the past decade to allow many different types of studies. All of the counters in the **Commission’s ATR** fleet now have the ability to do speed and classification studies, as well as volume counts. Simple collection of traffic volumes is still the most frequent type of study conducted by the Commission, but vehicle speed and vehicle classification studies are conducted upon request from MassDOT or local officials.

Cape Cod’s Traffic Counting Program began in 1984. Since the first count, the Commission staff has obtained 6,277 weekday counts and 647 weekend counts at over 1,300 different locations. In 2017, Commission staff collected 207 weekday counts and 36 weekend counts. Directional traffic volume counts were conducted at most of the locations where possible. Directional information is important when performing traffic studies because direction of travel can vary significantly by time of day. The Commission staff also fulfilled special requests such as vehicle speed and classification studies during the summer. The following table summarizes the activities of the Traffic Counting Program for the past 34 traffic counting seasons. Appendix A includes a summary of all ATR counts obtained in 2017.



Table 1: CCC Traffic Counting Program Activity

Year	Weekday Counts	Weekend Counts	Total	New Locations
1984	70	0	70	70
1985	69	0	69	47
1986	121	7	128	77
1987	265	5	270	181
1988	156	18	174	86
1989	196	18	214	67
1990	174	38	212	44
1991	105	6	111	44
1992	100	3	103	3
1993	98	0	98	6
1994	218	7	225	56
1995	213	26	239	46
1996	226	29	255	50
1997	166	12	178	30
1998	212	21	233	42
1999	167	23	190	37
2000	170	20	190	15
2001	118	17	135	14
2002	151	36	187	7
2003	141	13	154	13
2004	225	90	315	15
2005	201	13	214	17
2006	230	24	254	44
2007	197	14	211	13
2008	235	4	239	22
2009	246	32	278	45
2010	225	28	253	46
2011	227	7	234	12
2012	235	6	241	23
2013	246	30	276	32
2014	214	7	221	18
2015	219	23	242	35
2016	234	34	268	33
2017	207	36	243	10
Total	6,277	647	6,924	1,300



2. Using the Traffic Counting Data

Appendix B contains all weekday traffic counts performed between 2007 and 2017. The traffic counts for each town are contained in individual data sets. At locations with directional volumes, the information is first provided for the total of both directions, with the directional volumes following below. Counts performed on numbered routes are listed first in numerical order. Subsequently, named streets are listed in alphabetical order. If a roadway has more than one name it may be necessary to look under both names for the desired information, such as Central Road and Great Neck Road North in the Town of Mashpee. Traffic count data followed by an asterisk (*) represents counts performed by MassDOT or **another agency (e.g., the Town of Barnstable’s engineering department)**. These counts are primarily located on Route 6 and roads of local interest. Each column of data is explained in the sections that follow.

2.1. TOWN

Traffic counts are grouped by the town in which the count took place. The towns are ordered geographically, beginning with Bourne in the Upper Cape region and ending with Provincetown in the Outer Cape. A map of the town order is included in Appendix B to help navigate through the count data.

2.2. ROUTE/LOCATION INFORMATION

The roadway where the traffic count was taken is listed first for each count location. As part of the description, the orientation of the location with respect to the nearest cross street or notable geographic detail is also **listed. For example, “Rt 3A S of Bour/Plym TL” is shorthand for “Route 3A, south of the Bourne/Plymouth town line.” Note that the counts performed on a town line are listed twice in the report. For each count location taken at a town line, the count location is given under both town names. This allows the data to be analyzed more effectively. For a**



complete listing of abbreviated terms please refer to the Glossary of Abbreviations following the text of this report.

2.3. DATE OF STUDY: (YR), (BEGIN DATE), (END DATE)

Under each location, all available counts are listed in reverse chronological order, with the most recent appearing first. The year, begin date and end date of a count are listed in the first three columns. Not all locations are counted every year, and some may be counted more than once in a given year. Generally, counts are conducted for a 48-hour period, although some cover longer periods. In order to monitor summer weekday traffic, most counts are conducted Monday through Friday during the summer season.

When comparing counts taken in different years, it is important to consider fluctuations in seasonal visitation to the area as well as year-to-year growth. For example, a July 2013 count will generally be higher than an April 2014 count, mainly because of the seasonal visitation differences. Even the comparison of a count performed in July 2013 to June 2014 could be misleading due to the increase in traffic experienced during the month of July. However, if a count conducted in April 2014 shows an increase over a count performed in July 2013, for example, the effect may be a result of area growth. Seasonal adjustment factors can allow for a better comparison of data between different months. See Section 5 for a greater description of seasonal adjustment factors.

Another variable to consider when comparing counts is the day(s) of the week in which the counts were performed. Comparison of weekend counts can also be used for estimating growth. However, a comparison of a count performed over a weekend and a count obtained during the weekdays could be misleading. Therefore, when estimating annual growth in traffic in an area, it is best to compare counts taken at the same location at the same time of year and on the same type of days (weekday or weekend). The Commission has separated weekday and weekend data into two different databases in order to prevent any confusion during analysis. No counts in Appendix B were performed on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays. These weekend and holiday traffic counts are contained in Appendix C.



2.4. WEATHER CONDITIONS: (WEATHER)

Weather conditions may influence traffic volumes on Cape Cod. Cloudy days often contribute to increased traffic congestion except on beach access roads. On rainy or cloudy days, people engage in sightseeing or shopping rather than spending time at home or a favorite sunny-day location. In the data tables, brief descriptions of weather conditions during the count period are given. This information should be regarded with caution, as weather conditions may change considerably throughout a single day on Cape Cod. The Commission staff records the weather conditions of a count when setting down and picking up the traffic counting equipment. Of all the data provided in the tables, this category is the most subjective.

2.5. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL: (DIRECTION)

Direction identifies the direction of travel for the traffic on a roadway. Each traffic count is divided into three **rows**. **The first row, “Total,” lists** the data for the sum of the two directions. The next two rows list the directional data, with the direction of travel for the row indicated by the Direction column. If the count was done on a one-way road, only data for the one direction are listed and are identical to the information listed in the Total column. If the traffic counter did not separate the counts into the directional movements, only the data for the summation of both directions are listed.

2.5. SPEED MPH: (85TH PERCENTILE TRAFFIC SPEED)

Speed limits are typically based on the 85th percentile traffic speed (the maximum speed at which 85% of the vehicles are traveling). The measured 85th percentile speed can be different than the existing speed limit because of factors such as changes in geometric roadway geometry and driver behavior. All new ATR devices can determine the speed of vehicle traffic. The Cape Cod Commission has begun to record this figure at the request of town, staff or MassDOT officials. The data are presented for each direction of traffic. Practical uses of the data could include



evaluating the speed limit and safety of the roadway. 85th percentile speed can be found in appendices A & B.

2.6. AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC: (AXLE ADJ. ADT)

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is an estimate of the average number of vehicles over a 24-hour period. Many of the older counters recorded pairs of **“axle hits,” not vehicles. This meant that multiple-axle** vehicles were counted as more than one vehicle (i.e., two 5-axle trucks were recorded as 5 vehicles). This method produced an estimated number of vehicles that was higher than the actual number. Axle correction factors are used to adjust, as necessary, the ATR data. See Section 4 for a more detailed description of axle correction factors.

2.7. PEAK HOUR DATA: (DATE&DAY), (HOUR), (VOL)

The Peak Hour is the highest one-hour traffic volume observed during the period counted. Three columns offer data on the Peak Hour of a count. The date and day of the week (Date&Day) in which the peak occurred is listed first. The hour of the day (Hour) representing the Peak Hour is listed in the second column using 24-hour time (e.g., **“16” means that the** Peak Hour occurred beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.). The Peak Hour Volume (Vol) is listed in the third and right-most column. Please be aware that the two-way Peak Hour volume may not be equal to the sum of the two directional Peak Hour volumes. Instead, it may represent the hour within the period counted when the sum of traffic in both directions was greatest. Starting in 2011, peak hour volumes for each direction of travel correspond to the peak hour combined travel. This is to conform to MassDOT reporting requirements. Axle correction factors were used as necessary. Please see Section 4 for more information on axle correction factors.

Peak Hour information is significant for transportation planning. First, it indicates the highest traffic demands on a roadway. Second, it can show how close **a roadway’s use is to its capacity. For example, if counts taken** in different years or during different months of the same year indicate a change in average daily traffic without a corresponding change in Peak



Hour traffic, the roadway may be experiencing capacity constraints during peak times.

2.8. 4:00–5:00 P.M. TRAFFIC: (FOUR~FIVE)

The “Four~Five” column indicates the average traffic volume recorded between 4:00-5:00 p.m. during the count period. As with the other categories of data, the 4:00-5:00 p.m. volume is given for the total of both directions first, and then for each corresponding direction. The two-way 4:00-5:00 p.m. average volume is equal to the sum of the two directional 4:00-5:00 p.m. average volumes. Axle correction factors were used as necessary. Please see Section 4 for more information on axle correction factors.

The 4:00-5:00 p.m. volume has been included as an aid to transportation planners and engineers. In addition to these purposes, the 4:00-5:00 p.m. volume also provides useful information when compared to the Peak Hour volume for a particular location. For example, during the years 2004-2014, Cape-wide, the Peak Hour for the entire day generally fell between the hours of 4:00-5:00 p.m. (Rush Hour). The entire dataset supports this finding. It is still the case that the 4:00-5:00 p.m. volume is often the Peak Hour for the location.

2.9. ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC: (AADT)

The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is calculated by multiplying the ADT by a seasonal adjustment factor for the month of the count. MassDOT supplies these factors based on six permanent traffic-counting stations on Cape Cod. Note that this year-round AADT is only an estimate, based on seasonal changes in traffic volumes at these six locations. A description of the techniques used by MassDOT to develop the seasonal adjustment factors can be found in Section 5.



3. Weekend Traffic Counts

A feature added to this report in 1999 is a listing of traffic counts taken during weekends and holidays. Since then, the database has been expanded to include weekend counts performed in both earlier and later years. In 2017, 36 weekend counts were added for a total of 647 weekend counts recorded since the Traffic Counting Program began in 1984. This weekend database continues to grow each year and is included in Appendix C. Many of the headings are similar to those of the weekday database discussed in Section 2. The counts presented are representative of specific days and dates (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) and therefore have not been averaged or seasonally adjusted.

Counts are listed in geographical order, starting with Bourne and ending **with Provincetown. Within each town's listing**, counts are listed by route name. Counts performed on numbered routes are listed first in numerical order. Subsequently, named streets are listed in alphabetical order. If a roadway has more than one name it may be necessary to look under both names for the desired information, such as Central Road and Great Neck Road North in the Town of Mashpee.

3.1. DAILY TRAFFIC: ([SAT.], [SUN.], AND [HOLIDAY])

As with the Weekday Counts (see Section 2.6), Daily Traffic (DT) is an estimate of the average number of vehicles over a 24-hour period. Many **of the older counters recorded pairs of "axle hits," not vehicles. This** meant that multiple-axle vehicles were counted as more than one vehicle (i.e., two 5-axle trucks were recorded as 5 vehicles). This method produced an estimated number of vehicles that was higher than the actual number. Axle correction factors are used to adjust the ATR data, as necessary. See Section 4 for a more detailed description of axle correction factors.

Three columns list DT volumes. The first represents counts recorded on Saturdays. The second represents counts recorded on Sundays. The final column represents counts recorded during holidays, such as



Independence Day or Labor Day. Many counts do not contain information from all three categories. For each traffic count period, all available data are listed. None of the DT volumes have been seasonally adjusted, since counts performed on weekends and holidays are representative of specific days and not of annual data. For more information on seasonal adjustment factors, see Section 5.

3.2. PEAK HOUR DATA: ([SAT.], [SUN.], AND [HOLIDAY] VOLUME & TIME OF DAY)

As with the Weekday Counts (see Section 2.7), the Peak Hour is the highest one-hour traffic volume observed during the period counted. Peak Hour volumes and time of day are given for counts recorded on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Using 24-hour time (e.g., “16” means that the Peak Hour occurred beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.), the time of day representing the Peak Hour is listed in the right **column of each day’s two-column set**. The Peak Hour Volume is listed in the **left column of each day’s two-column set**. Please be aware that the two-way Peak Hour volume is not equal to the sum of the two directional Peak Hour volumes. Instead, it represents the hour within the period counted when the sum of traffic in both directions was greatest. Axle correction factors were used as necessary. Please see Section 4 for more information on axle correction factors.

Peak Hour information is significant for transportation planning. First, it indicates the highest traffic demands on a roadway. Second, it can show **how close a roadway’s use is to its capacity**. For example, if counts taken in different years or during different months of the same year indicate a change in average daily traffic without a corresponding change in Peak Hour traffic, the roadway may be experiencing capacity constraints during peak times.



4. Axle Correction

Standard volume counts by the Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATRs) record pairs of axle hits. The ATRs then divide the number of axles by **two in order to estimate the volume of the road. This is called the “divide-by-two” method. However**, not all vehicles have only two axles. Trucks, for example, can have from three to seven or more axles. A truck with three axles would be counted as 1.5 cars under the divide-by-two method. In order to obtain more accurate estimates, the data must be corrected to account for vehicles with multiple axles. Each year up to 2011 MassDOT has published **a series of “axle correction factors.” The appropriate factor** for each count must be determined based on the year of the count, the road classification of the count location, and whether the count location is within an urban area.

Classification and speed studies as well as volume counts performed by certain ATR models do not need to be axle corrected because they do not use the divide-by-two method. Instead, they record the actual number of vehicles traveling on a roadway. As a result, the counts included in the Appendices requiring axle correction have had the appropriate axle correction factor applied, while those counts not needing axle correction are unchanged.



Table 2: Axle Adjustment Factors for Cape Cod

	Rural Axle Factors							Urban Axle Factors							
	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-5	R-6	R-7	R-0	U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6	U-7	U-0
2011*	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98		0.98	0.96	0.98	0.98		0.98	0.99		0.99
2010	0.93	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98		0.98	0.96	0.97	0.97		0.98	0.98		0.98
2009	0.92	0.96	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99	0.96	0.96	0.96		0.98	0.98		0.98
2008	0.91	0.94	0.97	0.98	0.98		0.98	0.96	0.97	0.97		0.99	0.99		0.99
2007	0.90	0.93	0.98	0.98	0.98		0.98	0.96	0.97	0.97		0.99	0.99		0.99
2006	0.90	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97		0.97	0.96	0.97	0.97		0.99	0.99		0.99
2005	0.90	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
2004	0.91	0.98	0.98	0.98			0.98	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.99		0.99
2003	0.93	0.97	0.98	0.98			0.98	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.99		0.99
2002	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.98			0.98	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
2001	0.94	0.96	0.97	0.98			0.98	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.99		0.99
2000	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.98			0.98	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.98		0.99
1999	0.92	0.97	0.97	0.97			0.97	0.94	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.99	0.99		0.99
1998	0.92	0.97	0.97	0.97			0.97	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1997	0.90	0.97	0.97	0.96			0.97	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1996	0.90	0.97	0.98	0.97			0.98	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1995	0.89	0.97	0.97	0.97			0.97	0.95	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1994	0.90	0.97	0.97	0.98			0.97	0.95	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98		0.99
1993	0.89	0.97	0.97	0.98			0.98	0.95	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98		0.99
1992	0.90	0.97	0.96	0.98			0.98	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1991	0.90	0.96	0.97	0.97	1.00		1.00	0.95	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.97		0.99
1990	0.87	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.96		0.98	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1989	0.96	0.95	0.97	0.99	1.00		1.00	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99		0.99
1988	0.89	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.97		0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.98		0.99
1987	0.92	0.94	0.94	0.97	0.97		0.97	0.90	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.98		0.98

Source: Massachusetts Highway Department / Mass DOT
 *2011 is most recent year that factors have been supplied by MassDOT



5. MassDOT Data and Seasonal Adjustment Factors

Observed traffic volumes at a given location can often vary from month to month. This is especially true on Cape Cod, where summer traffic volumes are higher due to seasonal tourism. To compare traffic volume data collected in different months, seasonal adjustment factors must be applied.

5.1. PERMANENT TRAFFIC COUNTING STATIONS

MassDOT currently collects year-round traffic volumes from the following permanent traffic counting stations:

- Route 3 north of the Bourne/Plymouth town line
- Route 6 east of Route 149 (Exit 5)
- Route 6 at the Sagamore Bridge
- Route 28 at the Bourne Bridge
- Route 28 in Yarmouth, east of Higgins Crowell Road
- Route 28 in Barnstable, west of Old Post Road (Cotuit)

Also included in this report is a count station that discontinued in 1997:

- Route 28 in Barnstable, east of Main St (Cotuit)

Table 3, found on the following page, presents the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and summer Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges for the last thirty years. Traffic data as old as the **year 1969 is available on the Commission's transportation counts** webpage: www.capecodcommission.org/counts

The table 4 presents the AADT and summer ADT for the other permanent traffic counting stations. The summer ADT for a particular year represents the July ADT of that year. If no traffic volumes for July were available, then the August ADT was used instead. Please note that data are not available for all years.



Table 3: Canal Bridges Permanent Traffic Counting Stations

	#707		#708		Combined (both bridges)	
	Bourne Bridge		Sagamore Bridge		Combined (both bridges)	
	Yr.Round/Summer	Yr.Round/Summer	Yr.Round/Summer	Yr.Round/Summer	Yr.Round/Summer	Yr.Round/Summer
2017		56,081		74,736		130,817
2016	44,562	56,890				
2015		58,384		73,041		131,425
2014	44,746	57,980		69,375		127,355
2013	43,909	56,896		71,020		127,916
2012	44,863	58,305	50,448	70,391	95,311	128,696
2011	42,505	58,467	51,489	70,674	93,994	129,141
2010	44,717	59,665	50,272	69,323	94,988	128,988
2009	44,839	58,031	50,052	69,256	94,890	127,287
2008	42,396	55,492	51,019	67,854	93,415	123,346
2007	43,506	57,042	52,559	70,407	96,065	127,449
2006	43,909	57,411	51,916	67,020	95,824	124,431
2005	43,873	58,858	52,282	69,279	96,155	128,137
2004	44,688	59,615	54,143	69,274	98,832	128,889
2003	44,635	60,430	54,114	70,716	98,749	131,146
2002	43,981	60,059	54,905	71,207	98,886	131,266
2001	40,561	54,639	54,309	70,025	94,869	124,664
2000	41,805	56,892	53,832	68,997	95,637	125,889
1999	43,013	59,595	52,434	68,833	95,447	128,428
1998	42,427	58,063	51,490	69,195	93,918	127,258
1997	40,216	56,204	49,716	66,513	89,932	122,717
1996	39,304	54,195	48,071	66,277	87,375	120,472
1995	38,885	52,503	47,994	67,385	86,879	119,888
1994	36,406	52,078				
1993	35,413	49,753				
1992	34,899	49,120				
1991	33,926	48,194	45,667	62,564	79,593	110,758
1990	34,818	49,010	46,571	65,240	81,388	114,250
1989	33,936	49,137	40,814	53,024	74,751	102,161
1988	32,735	46,709	39,822	54,556	72,557	101,265
1987	29,675	39,300	38,078	56,575	67,753	95,875
1986	26,858	35,035	40,870	57,224	67,728	92,259
1985	26,136	36,800	36,877	53,441	63,014	90,241
1984	26,179	41,571	34,244	50,441	60,423	92,012
1983	23,276	29,685	31,695	48,788	54,971	78,473
1982						
1981	15,223	25,427				
1980						
1979	19,480	29,930	30,090	43,792	49,570	73,722
1978	22,256	31,823	28,310	50,557	50,566	82,380
1977	23,113	41,307				
1976	23,173	41,130	26,693	45,260	49,866	86,390
1975	23,484	41,900	24,140	43,095	47,623	84,995

Source: Massachusetts Highway Department / Mass DOT



Table 4: Other Cape Cod Permanent Traffic Counting Stations

	#20 Rt 3 N of Bourne TL Yr.Rnd/Summ		#15 Rt 6 E of Rt 149, Exit 5 Yr.Rnd/Summ		#712 Rt 28 E of Main St, Cotuit Yr.Rnd/Summer		#7351 Rt 28 W of Old Post Rd Yr.Rnd/Summ		#709 Rt 28 E of Higgins Crowell Rd Yr.Rnd/Summ		#7322 Rt 28 S of Otis Rotary Yr.Rnd/Summ	
2017		49,535						31,138				
2016	39,384	49,495						31,726			28,793	37,281
2015	37,665	49,169					26,163	31,592		23,077		37,266
2014	36,607	47,956					25,937	31,122	17,481	23,075		
2013	36,791	47,810					26,107	31,648	17,600	23,296		
2012		47,958										
2011		45,803		67,799			25,758	31,444		23,780		
2010	34,822	50,178	50,100	72,002			27,025	32,631	18,320	24,054		
2009	34,826	47,308	48,753	70,394			26,906	32,584	18,480	23,959		
2008	35,418	46,031	48,619	67,646			26,607	31,967	18,587	24,090		
2007	36,302	47,486	50,643	70,177			27,512	32,552	19,065	24,337		
2006	34,136	41,840	51,093	69,891			27,003	32,725	20,212	24,995		
2005	33,482	42,123	52,391	72,580			27,845	33,564	20,125	25,961		
2004	34,477	41,669	53,619	73,154			28,130	33,818	20,736	26,180		
2003	54,570	45,570	53,402	74,384			27,373	33,309	20,970	26,662		
2002	38,508	45,921	53,845	73,891					21,597	27,025		
2001	34,186	42,191	51,940	71,798					21,408	26,632		
2000	33,381	41,625	50,128	64,832					21,080	26,747		
1999	32,990	41,797	50,257	71,579					21,369	27,530		
1998	32,873	42,656	48,524	69,195					21,040	27,422		
1997	31,838	41,793	45,961	66,626	20,249	24,570			20,299	27,115		
1996	31,074	41,377	44,530	64,672	19,619	24,697			19,730	26,241		
1995	30,832	42,070	42,689	61,506	19,800	24,649			19,352	24,782		



	#20 Rt 3 N of Bourne TL Yr.Rnd/Summ		#15 Rt 6 E of Rt 149, Exit 5 Yr.Rnd/Summ		#712 Rt 28 E of Main St, Cotuit Yr.Rnd/Summer		#7351 Rt 28 W of Old Post Rd Yr.Rnd/Summ		#709 Rt 28 E of Higgins Crowell Rd Yr.Rnd/Summ		#7322 Rt 28 S of Otis Rotary Yr.Rnd/Summ	
1994					19,299	24,837						
1993			39,714	60,111	18,709	24,229						
1992	29,510	40,893	39,572	59,549	18,504	24,113						
1991	28,747	38,652	39,156	55,072	18,218	23,668						
1990	28,509	39,930	39,535	57,585	18,087	23,501						
1989	28,474	41,266	38,997	58,217	18,300	23,467						
1988	27,908	40,154	38,646	57,002	18,681	24,210						
1987	27,615	42,757	37,228	55,040	17,510	22,910			21,286	27,714		
1986	27,743	40,461	36,452	53,890	16,939	23,569			21,068	27,190		
1985	23,227	32,466	33,836	53,043	15,016	20,010			18,158	21,861		
1984	20,849	31,212	31,426	49,500	13,709	17,893			17,569	21,193		
1983	16,431	28,528	29,006	48,206	12,870	18,000			17,828	21,415		
1982	17,396	28,227							17,013	21,214		
1981	19,440	35,500	26,740	41,971	12,364	18,035			19,619	26,037		
1980	21,535	34,981	26,098	42,174	10,658	15,674			18,361	23,437		
1979	19,009	29,831	24,643	38,416	14,816	20,772			19,644	26,597		
1978	19,457	31,906	25,536	45,256	10,455	16,762			19,634	27,184		
1977	18,648	28,858	24,324	42,845	10,025	15,350						
1976	16,668	27,349	23,048	39,947	15,190	24,651			26,261	32,652		
1975	15,721	26,844	21,638	39,222	9,070	14,808			23,897	31,085		

Source: Massachusetts Highway Department / Mass DOT



5.2. SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

Using the data collected from the permanent traffic counting stations, MassDOT determines the seasonal adjustment factors for the next year. These factors indicate relative traffic volumes throughout the year. For example, weekday traffic in January is approximately half the weekday traffic in July. By multiplying by the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of a traffic count by a seasonal adjustment factor, an estimate of annual ADT can be produced for that location. ADT volumes from all months can in this way be converted into annual ADT volumes and properly compared.

The seasonal adjustment factors only produce an estimate of annual ADT for several reasons. First, the adjustment factors for 2012 and subsequent years are based on 2010 data, since MassDOT has not supplied monthly adjustment factors since 2011. Moreover, the permanent stations are located on state highways. Seasonal traffic fluctuations may be different on local roadways and streets. Also, none of the permanent stations are located east of Yarmouth. This is significant because seasonal traffic fluctuations are generally greater in areas with higher seasonal population changes, such as the Outer Cape.

For a complete listing of all seasonal adjustment factors from 1983-2011, please see the table on the following page.



Table 5: Monthly Adjustment Factors for Cape Cod

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011*	1.26	1.25	1.20	1.06	0.96	0.89	0.76	0.76	0.92	0.99	1.08	1.14
2010	1.26	1.25	1.19	1.08	0.95	0.88	0.77	0.76	0.93	1.00	1.08	1.15
2009	1.26	1.25	1.19	1.08	0.95	0.88	0.77	0.76	0.93	1.00	1.08	1.15
2008	1.21	1.25	1.19	1.08	0.96	0.89	0.78	0.76	0.93	1.00	1.07	1.14
2007	1.25	1.21	1.17	1.06	0.96	0.86	0.78	0.79	0.93	1.00	1.08	1.14
2006	1.26	1.20	1.18	1.04	0.96	0.86	0.78	0.79	0.93	0.99	1.07	1.12
2005	1.27	1.23	1.18	1.06	0.96	0.85	0.77	0.78	0.93	0.99	1.08	1.15
2004	1.27	1.23	1.18	1.06	0.96	0.85	0.77	0.78	0.93	0.99	1.08	1.15
2003	1.29	1.23	1.16	1.06	0.99	0.87	0.79	0.77	0.95	0.99	1.07	1.14
2002	1.30	1.24	1.16	1.06	0.98	0.86	0.79	0.78	0.93	0.97	1.08	1.14
2001	1.34	1.27	1.18	1.06	0.97	0.86	0.78	0.78	0.94	0.97	1.08	1.13
2000	1.37	1.28	1.20	1.07	0.96	0.87	0.77	0.78	0.93	0.97	1.09	1.14
1999	1.37	1.29	1.23	1.09	0.96	0.87	0.76	0.77	0.94	0.99	1.10	1.15
1998	1.39	1.27	1.23	1.11	0.95	0.87	0.76	0.76	0.93	0.99	1.10	1.16
1997	1.38	1.29	1.22	1.10	0.96	0.86	0.76	0.75	0.92	0.99	1.10	1.19
1996	1.41	1.30	1.22	1.07	0.96	0.86	0.75	0.75	0.91	0.99	1.10	1.19
1995	1.36	1.33	1.24	1.07	0.97	0.86	0.75	0.75	0.90	0.99	1.10	1.19
1994	1.35	1.31	1.25	1.06	0.93	0.86	0.73	0.74	0.89	0.97	1.09	1.15
1993	1.35	1.30	1.24	1.07	0.92	0.85	0.75	0.75	0.90	0.99	1.10	1.17
1992	1.37	1.32	1.29	1.08	0.94	0.87	0.75	0.76	0.90	1.01	1.14	1.21
1991	1.39	1.30	1.22	1.08	0.94	0.87	0.76	0.77	0.95	1.02	1.12	1.20
1990	1.31	1.26	1.16	1.06	0.96	0.85	0.73	0.74	0.94	0.99	1.10	1.22
1989	1.37	1.38	1.25	1.13	0.99	0.89	0.72	0.73	0.94	1.03	1.15	1.17
1988	1.38	1.30	1.21	1.10	0.99	0.83	0.72	0.73	0.91	1.02	1.11	1.15
1987	1.40	1.39	1.23	1.10	0.94	0.85	0.71	0.73	0.96	1.02	1.18	1.25
1986	1.35	1.31	1.21	1.09	1.05	0.84	0.73	0.75	0.96	1.04	1.17	1.22
1985	1.31	1.26	1.17	1.07	0.96	0.92	0.84	0.83	0.97	0.97	1.14	1.16
1984	1.55	1.36	1.46	1.12	1.03	0.85	0.73	0.73	0.94	1.07	1.14	1.24
1983	1.53	1.51	1.30	1.15	0.98	0.82	0.65	0.66	0.87	1.07	1.23	1.30

Source: Massachusetts Highway Department / Mass DOT

*2011 is the last year that MassDOT has supplied monthly adjustment factors



6. Cape Cod Commission Remote Counting Stations

In addition to MassDOT permanent count stations, continuous, year-round data is collected at Cape Cod Commission remote count locations. At these locations vehicle counts are recorded hourly for each approach lane of the intersection.

In 2011, one remote count location, Route 137 @ Route 39 in Harwich, was in operation. Following a system calibration in December 2010, a full year of data was collected in 2011 and most of 2012. A second location in Harwich, Route 124 at Queen Anne Road, became operational in July of 2012. An additional remote count location has been installed on Route 28 at Lumbert Mill Road in Barnstable and became operational in January 2013. Average year-round monthly and average summer month total entering vehicles are shown in the following table.

Table 6: Average Daily Traffic at Remote Data Collection Sites

	Harwich		Harwich		Barnstable	
	Rt 137/Rt 39 (2548)		Rt 124/Queen Anne Rd (2570)		Rt 28 E/Lumbert Mill Rd (2897)	
	Yr.Round/Summer		Yr.Round/Summer		Yr.Round/Summer	
2017			19,044	24,637	22,350	24,828
2016	20,059	25,893	19,196	25,990	22,971	25,240
2015	19,521	26,304	19,125	24,464	22,816	26,433
2014	19,715*	26,425	18,673*	24,224	22,396*	24,737
2013			18,137	23,342	22,467	25,678
2012	19,796	26,652		23,222		
2011	20,326	28,210				

*Year-round data is missing one or more months.



7. Results and Analysis

After seeing sustained growth for the second half of 20th century, traffic patterns on Cape Cod have been less consistent early in the 21st century. Over the last ten years (2007-2017), there has been an overall 3.80% increase in Cape-wide traffic.

7.1. MASSDOT PERMANENT COUNTING STATIONS AND BRIDGE CROSSINGS

MassDOT’s permanent counting stations can be used to show a trend in road usage over time. As can be seen in the following table, traffic volumes on Route 6 and Route 28 have decreased over the last ten years. Route 3 north of the Bourne/Plymouth town line has seen 5.30% growth since 2007. The Sagamore Bridge has seen 6.96% growth since 2007, while the Bourne Bridge has seen a negative growth of -0.47%. Due to equipment problems, not all stations were available for analysis. A new MassDOT counting station on Route 28 south of the Otis Rotary in Bourne became operational at the beginning of 2015 and is now included in growth calculations in this **year’s report**.

Table 7: Summer Growth Rates - Permanent Counting Stations and Bridge Crossings (%)

Permanent Traffic Counting Station	10 Year Total Growth	10 Year Average Annual Growth Rate	One Year Growth Rate 2016-2017
#15: Rt 6 E of Rt 149 (Ex. 5)	-0.66	-0.07	n/a
#20: Rt 3 N of Bourne TL	5.31	0.51	0.08
#707: Bourne Bridge	-0.47	-0.05	-1.43
#708: Sagamore Bridge	6.96	0.67	n/a
#709: Rt 28 E of Higgins Crowell	-6.77	-0.70	n/a
#7322: Rt 28 S of Otis Rotary	0.40	0.04	n/a
#7351: Rt 28 W of Old Post Rd	-3.87	-0.40	-1.86

With the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges providing the primary access to and from Cape Cod, observing traffic trends at these stations can provide useful insight into annual and seasonal traffic trends. Despite the unavailability of complete data for the Sagamore Bridge in 2017, a review **of the most recent (2012) year’s data** is likely to be consistent with the



latest year. In total, over 35 million vehicles crossed the Cape Cod Canal on the Bourne or Sagamore Bridge in one year.

Traffic data have been collected at permanent count stations at both bridges since 1972. Carrying roughly twice as many vehicles today as in 1972, the story of traffic over the bridges is the story of traffic on Cape Cod.

As shown in the figure below, both summer and annual average daily traffic (ADT) over the bridges showed an overall upward trend from the early 1970's through the early 2000's, reaching a maximum in 2002. Traffic volumes, on average, dropped from 2002 to 2007 before trending slightly upward in recent years. This figure has not been updated since 2012 because traffic counters have not been able to supply consistent data throughout the year.

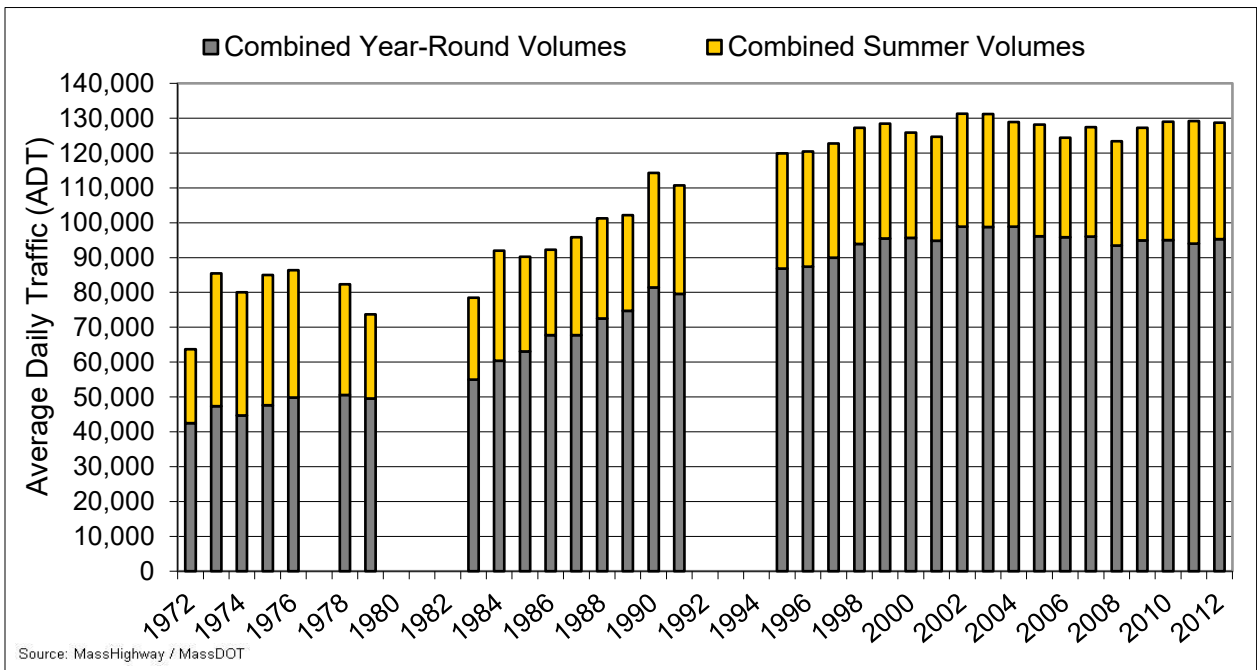


Figure 1: Combined Average Daily Traffic over Bourne and Sagamore Bridges

Seasonal traffic trends over the bridges have also changed considerably over the years. Since 1972, traffic has tended to be more spread out over 12 months as opposed to concentrated during the summer months. As



shown in the following figure this trend, along with the overall increase in traffic, has resulted in 2011 traffic volumes throughout almost the entire year in excess of 1972 traffic volumes in the summer. There were a variety of six months of available data for 2017, these counts are displayed below to show the traffic volume trends along with 2011 for comparison.

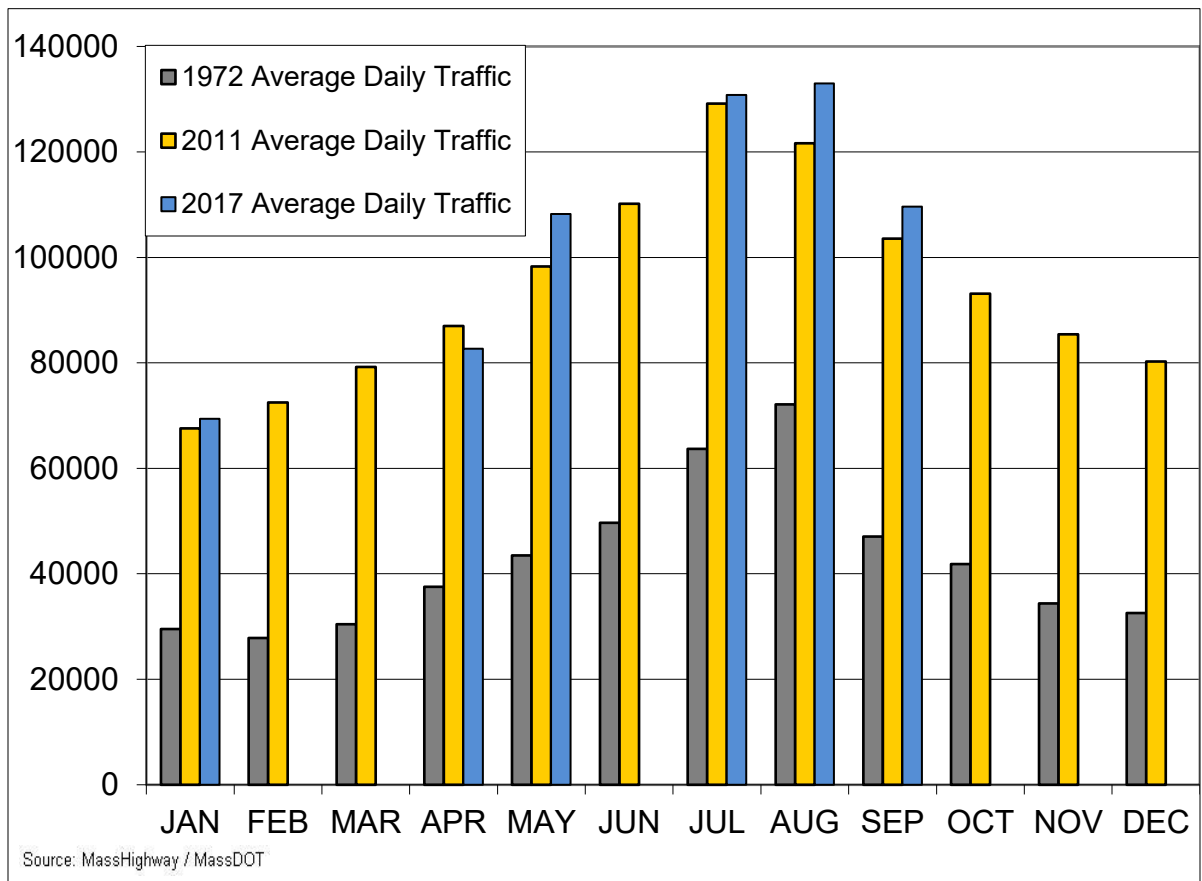


Figure 2: Historic Monthly ADT Changes at the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges



The graph below shows the monthly volumes that were counted by Cape Cod Commission permanent counting stations in 2017. The intersection at Route 28 and Lumbert Mill Road in Barnstable showed the highest volumes of the three locations in each month. The location in Harwich shows traffic volumes closer to the amount shown Route 28 and Lumbert Mill Road in the July and August.

The intersection in Harwich, Route 124 at Queen Anne Road showed a larger increase in volume during the summer months. The intersection at Route 28 and Lumbert Mill Road showed more consistent volumes year-round. The count station in Harwich, Route 137 at Route 39 collected inaccurate data from March-December in 2017, only offering two months of accurate data.

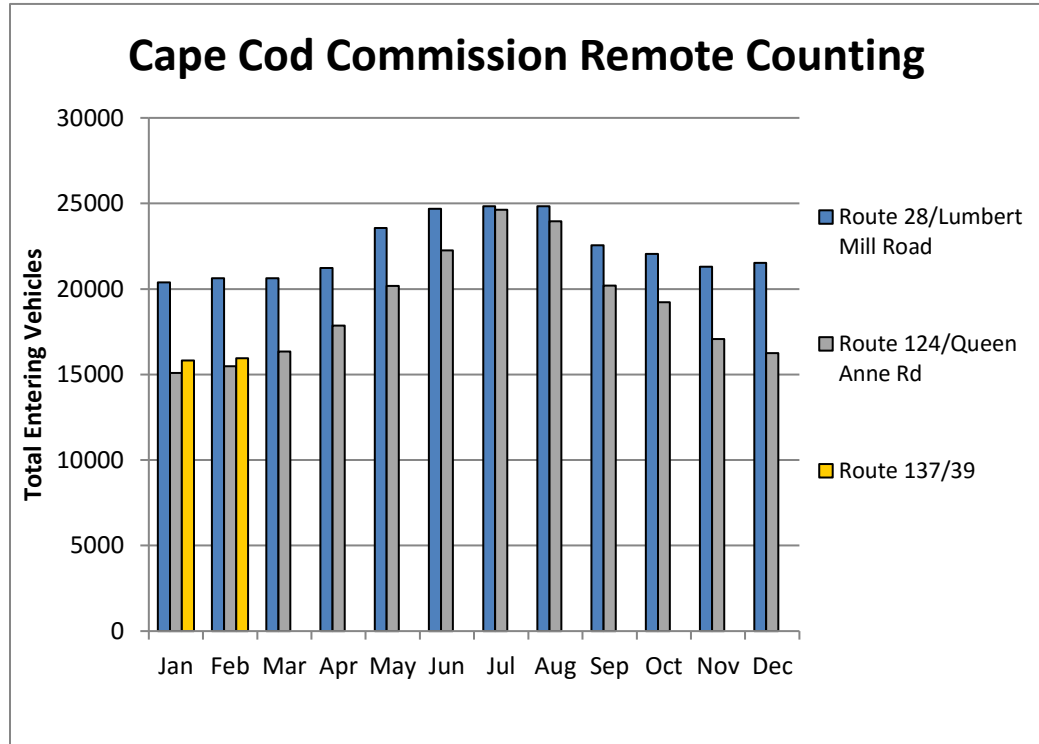


Figure 3: Monthly Traffic Volumes Recorded at Cape Cod Commission Permanent Counting Stations



7.2. CAPE-WIDE TRAFFIC

The ten-year period between 2007 and 2017 shows a third year in a row with ten-year positive growth since the ten-year period of 1997-2007.

1994 was the first year the Cape Cod Commission's Traffic Counting Program had sufficient data to run a ten-year analysis (since the program began in 1984), and this period had almost 15% growth. Between 2002 and 2007, traffic volume changes during overlapping 10-year periods have been increasing, albeit at a slower pace each year. Between 2007 and 2014, traffic showed a negative ten-year growth.

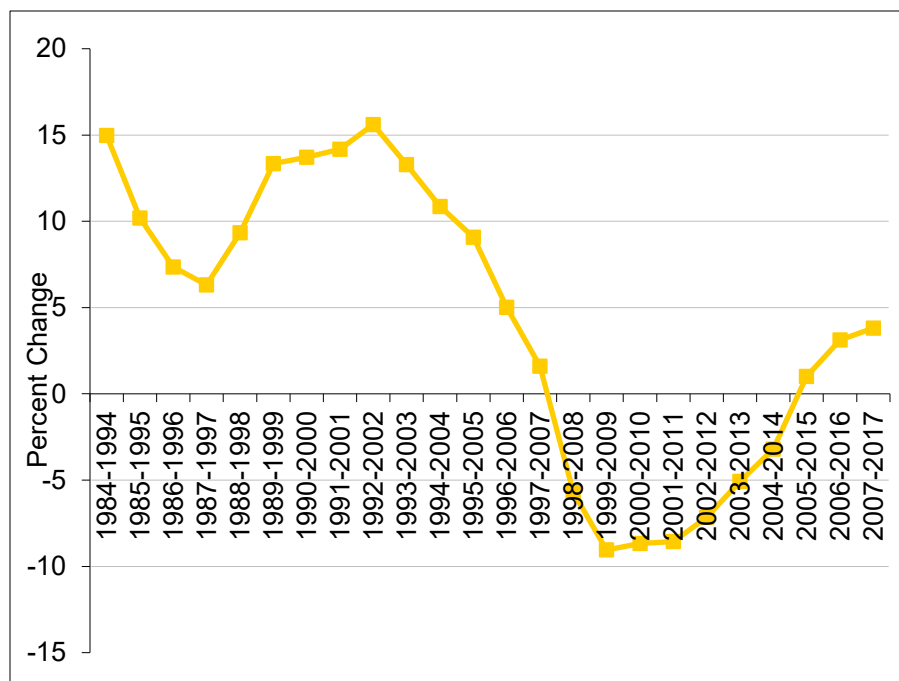


Figure 4: Percentage Change for 10-Year Periods

In 2009, we see the most severe 10-year drop in traffic volumes since the CCC has been keeping track of the statistic (-9.05%). While one may be tempted to assume this means traffic has decreased in 2009 since 2008, it is important to remember that the 10-year period ending in 2008 includes comparisons beginning with 1998 – a year that had significantly lower traffic volumes than the year 1999. 1999 volumes are included in the 10-year analysis for 1999-2009, and contribute to the 10-year decline for the period. Cape-wide traffic actually increased from 2008 to 2009 by 4.51%.



The following table shows the growth rates for various sub-regions and roads of Cape Cod over a 10-year period. The average annual growth rate between 2007 and 2017 is 0.37% for all of Cape Cod. From 2007 to 2017 all four regions on Cape Cod showed positive growth. The highest positive one-year growth was shown in the Mid-Cape. Only the Lower Cape showed a decline in the one-year (2016-2017) analysis

Table 8: Cape Cod Summer Traffic Growth by Subregion

Region*	Number of Comparisons**	10-Year Total Growth (%)	10-Year Annual Average Growth Rate (%)	One-Year Growth Rate 2016-2017 (%)
Upper Cape	167	4.98	0.48	0.64
Mid-Cape	146	2.40	0.23	4.15
Lower Cape	118	1.38	0.13	-1.66
Outer Cape	83	7.88	0.76	0.87
All Roads	514	3.80	0.37	1.28

*Upper = Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, Mashpee | Mid = Barnstable, Yarmouth, Dennis
Lower = Harwich, Chatham, Brewster, Orleans | Outer = Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown

** Corresponds to ten-year analysis only

Regarding the modest traffic volume change from 2007 to 2017 (0.37% per year), it is unclear what is responsible for the stagnation. The Cape-wide population has shown a moderate decline during a portion this time period (see following table), but conventional trip generators (commercial establishments, residences, etc.) have not been reduced.



Table 9: Barnstable County Population Estimate

	1990	2000	2010	% Change 2000-2010
Population	186,605	222,230	215,888	-2.85%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Census 2000, Census 1990

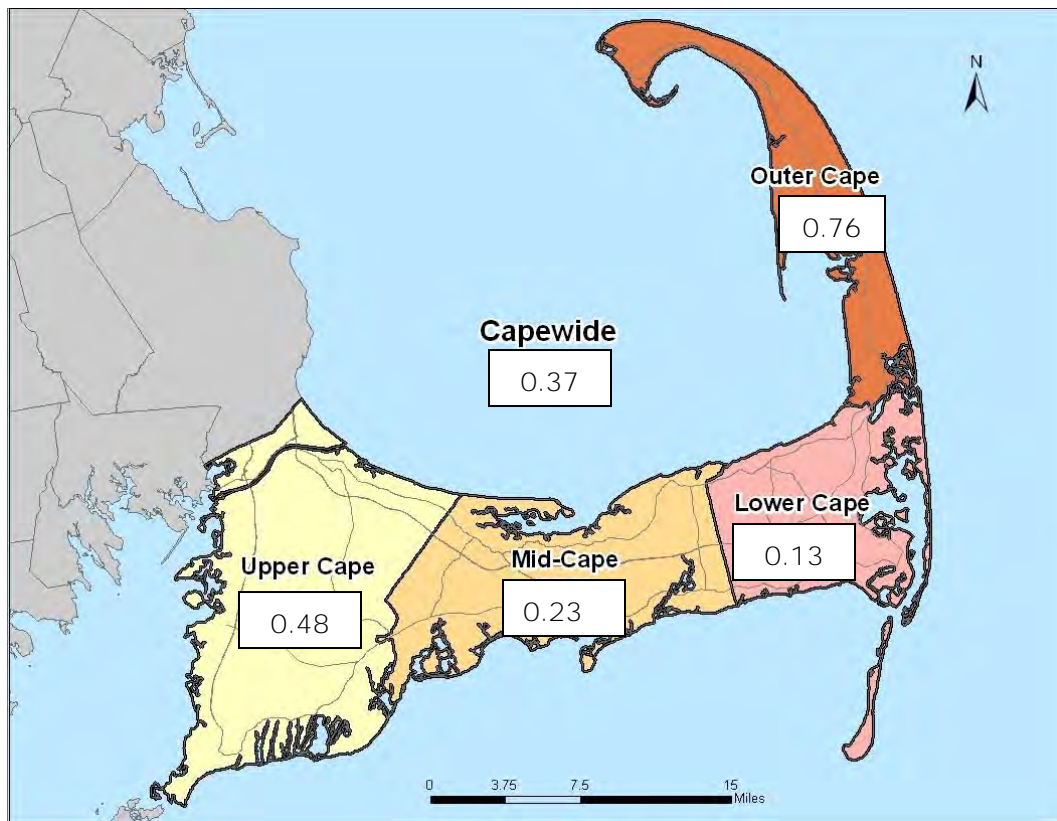


Figure 5: Sub regions' 10-year Average Annual Growth Rate (%)



Glossary of Abbreviations

TOWN NAMES:	ABBREVIATION	TOWN
	BARN	BARNSTABLE
	BOUR	BOURNE
	BREW	BREWSTER
	CHAT	CHATHAM
	DENN	DENNIS
	EAST	EASTHAM
	FALM	FALMOUTH
	HARW	HARWICH
	MASH	MASHPEE
	ORLE	ORLEANS
	PLYM	PLYMOUTH
	PROV	PROVINCETOWN
	SAND	SANDWICH
	TRUR	TRURO
	WARE	WAREHAM
	WELL	WELLFLEET
	YARM	YARMOUTH
DEFINITIONS:	ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
	AADT	ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
	ADT	AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
	AV	AVENUE
	E, W	EAST, WEST
	EB	EASTBOUND
	LN	LANE
	N, S	NORTH, SOUTH
	NB	NORTHBOUND
	RD	ROAD
	ROT	ROTARY
	RT	ROUTE
	SB	SOUTHBOUND
	ST	STREET
	TL	TOWN LINE
	TEV	TOTAL ENTERING VEHICLES
	WB	WESTBOUND

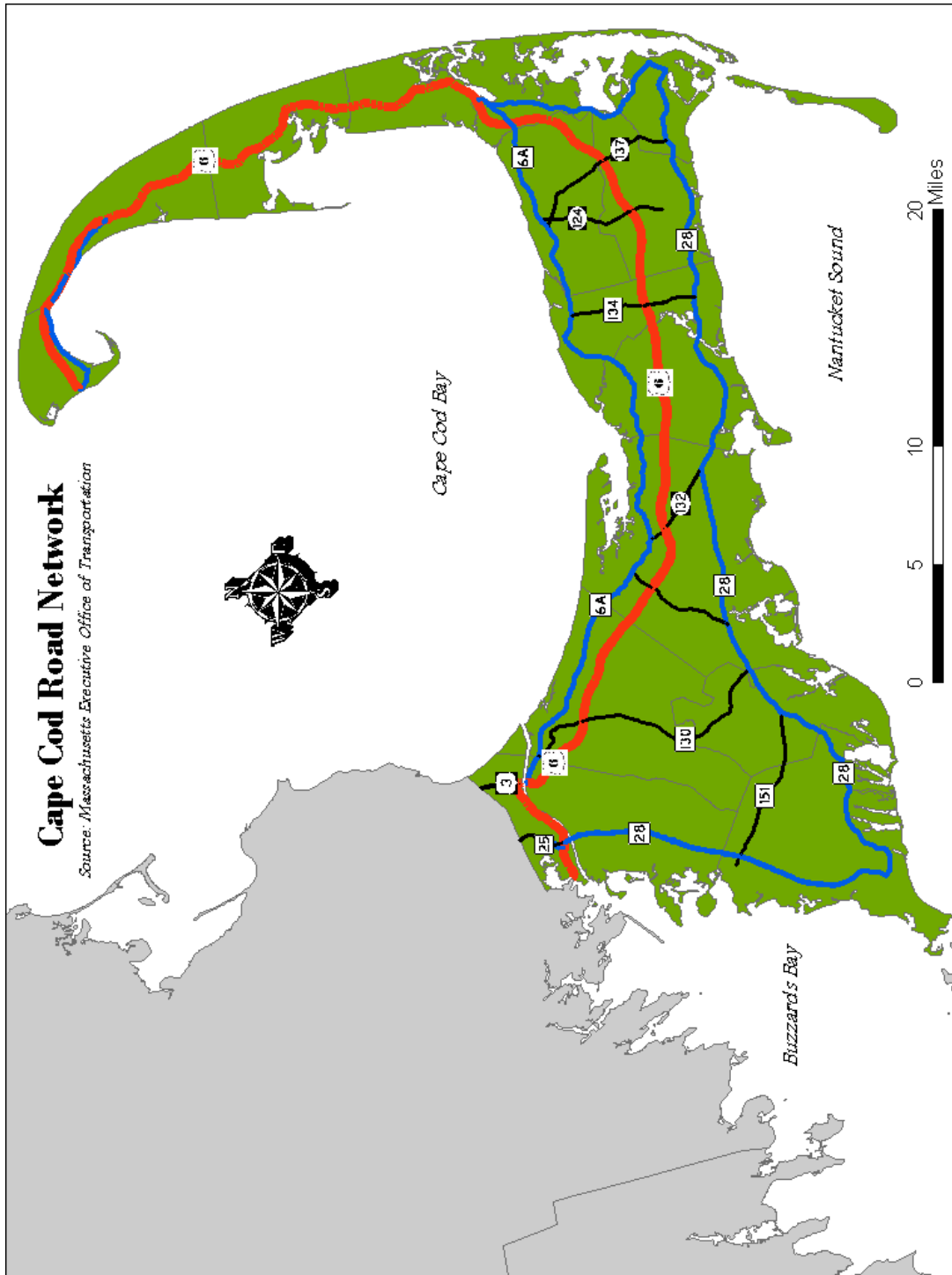


Figure 6: Cape Cod Road Network

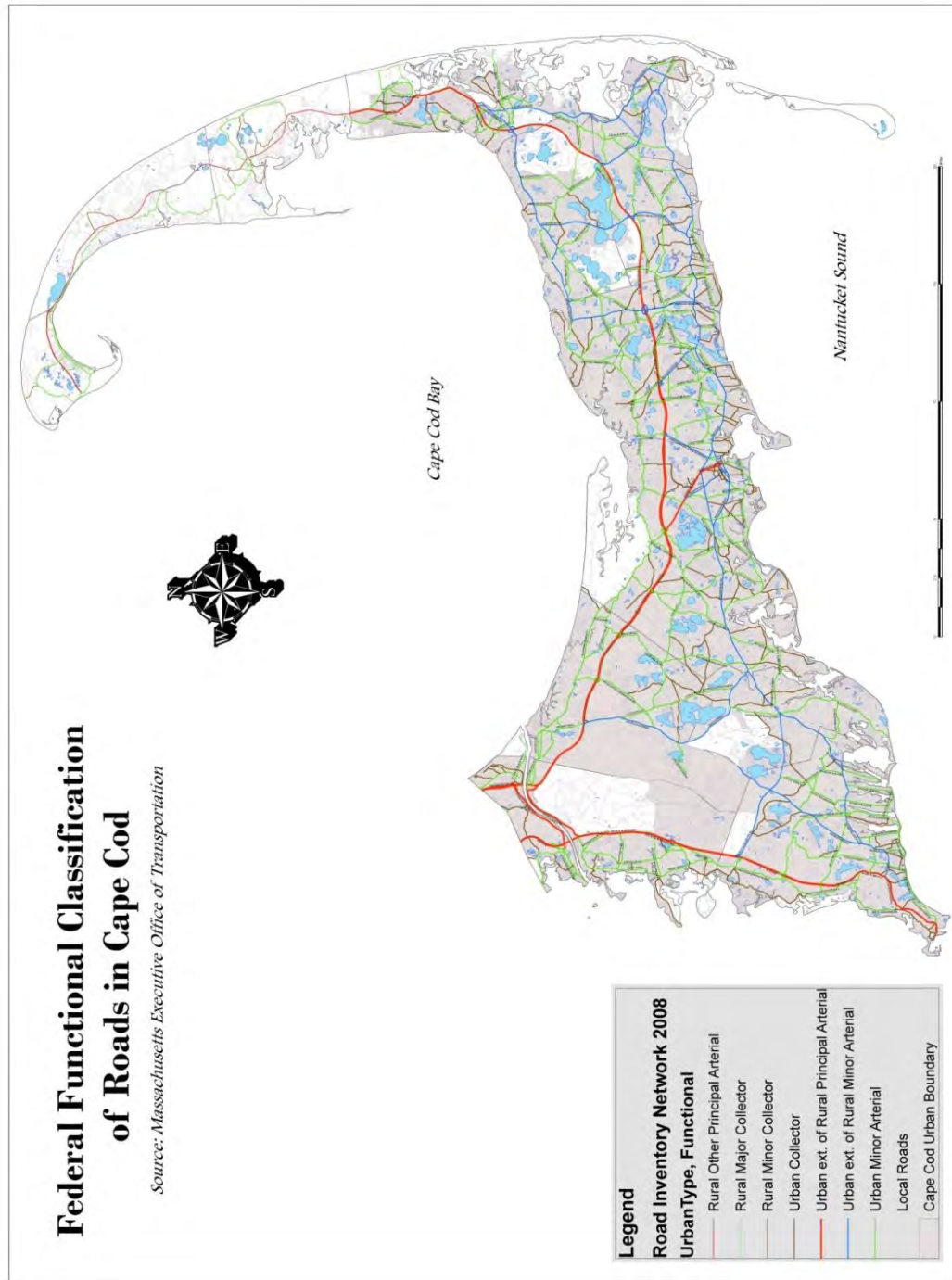


Figure 7: Cape Cod Road Functional Class



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Appendices

The appendices contain traffic count data collected from 2007-2017. Appendix A includes a summary of all ATR counts obtained in 2017. Appendix B makes up the body of the Traffic Counting Report. It includes all Automatic Traffic Recorder counts obtained from 2007 to 2017, arranged geographically by town (starting in the Upper Cape area at Bourne and ending in the Outer Cape area at Provincetown). Appendix C includes a listing of counts taken on weekends arranged by town and then by route name. Appendix D is a collection of turning movement counts performed at Cape Cod intersections from 2007 to 2017. Appendix E summarizes bicycle pedestrian counts. Appendix F is a summary of park and ride lot capacity counts. Appendix F details data collected at the Cape Cod Commission remote monitoring locations since 2011.

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