

# Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee

*Transportation Advisory Group for the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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**Cape Cod Commission Conference Room  
3225 Main Street (Route 6A), Barnstable, MA 02630**

## **Minutes - Friday, August 7, 2009**

### *Name*

Robert Burgmann, P.E., Vice-Chairman  
Bob Bersin, P.E.  
Paul Lagg  
Neil Andres  
Marlene McCollem  
Chris Nickerson  
Mark Budnick  
Charleen Greenhalgh  
Edward Gross, M.D.  
Karst Hoozeboom  
John D. Harris  
Timothy Kochan  
Joanne O'Keefe  
Ed Maroney  
Sue Rohrbach  
Greg Taylor  
Timothy Letton  
Patty Daley  
Priscilla N. Leclerc  
Glenn Cannon, P.E.  
Clay Schofield  
Andrew Koziol

### *Representing*

Town of Barnstable, Town Engineer  
Town of Brewster, Director, Department of Public Works  
Town of Chatham, GIS  
Town of Eastham, Superintendent DPW  
Town of Falmouth, Assistant Town Planner  
Town of Harwich, Highways  
Town of Orleans, Highway Manager  
Town of Truro, Assistant Town Administrator  
Bicycle Representative  
National Park Service / Cape Cod National Seashore  
Cape Cod Commission (CCC) and MPO  
Mass Highway District 5  
Sandwich  
*The Barnstable Patriot* Newspaper  
Senator Robert O'Leary  
AECOM  
GPI  
CCC Director of Technical Services  
CCC Senior Transportation Planner  
CCC Transportation Engineer  
CCC Transportation Engineer  
CCC Transportation Analyst

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Robert Burgmann, P.E., Barnstable, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:40 a.m.

**Minutes of July 10, 2009** With a motion by Charleen Greenhalgh, seconded by Bob Bersin, the minutes were approved.

**Beyond SAFETEA-LU: Next Federal Authorization Update** Mr. John Blundo, P.E., Director, Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Pavement Association (MAAPA), provided an overview on the past, present, and future federal policy and funding legislation. Mr. Blundo described the Highway Trust Fund, its history, and the current shortfall, and the \$7 billion fix just passed by Congress to be signed by the President—this will only fix this Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. Also mentioned were other new revenue source ideas that are being discussed at both national and state levels. Mr. Blundo also reported on the funding status of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The federal gas tax has been level at 18.3 cents from 1993—with about 80% less buying power now. Mr. Blundo reported that an 11 cent increase would provide \$450 billion in revenue, but there is no political appetite to increase the gas tax. A new six year federal bill is being discussed due to the fact that the current legislation "SAFETEA-LU" expires on September 30, 2009, and this bill may be totally different than the current one in terms of funding categories—there is a look at simplifying the structure for funds into four categories,

including critical asset investment and safety improvement. Consideration of climate change and transportation is likely to be included in the next federal bill as well. With the no tax increase mood in Washington, D.C., Mr. Blundo suggested that we contact Congressional representatives, national groups, and others to let them know that we need something and support raising revenue.

John Blundo then mentioned the state transportation reform bill that creates a MassDOT with a five member board to be in effect by November 1.

Comments / questions included:

- DCR highways are folded in, but what about the bikeways? *DCR will still have the bike facilities.*
- What about bridges? *MHD bridge division is overseeing the bridges—part of the Accelerated Bridge Program funding is for DCR bridges.*
- Your presentation was great. *Thank you.*
- The shortfall was anticipated, and yet, there is not a new revenue plan? *Finance commission at the national level, studies, etc., but there is not a new revenue system in place yet, people need to drive what financial solution they want—the politicians are afraid to bring forward any proposals without support.*

Discussion continued and the apparent consensus, so far, was that there is not enough funding for the transportation system.

**Yarmouth Road/ Willow Street Study – Presentation of Alternatives** Glenn Cannon, P.E., CCC Transportation Engineer, presented an overview of the concepts for improvement to the Yarmouth Road corridor.

Mr. John Harris inquired about the task force and volunteered to be involved.

Discussion, comments, and/or questions followed and included:

- Have any of the Outer-Cape emergency services been notified about the corridor study? Mr. Cannon answers yes, although he points out that police and fire tend to withhold their judgment in favor of the local departments' opinion. Mr. Cannon points out that he set up a meeting with Fire personnel, and only one town attended, but he is willing to travel to the Outer-Cape to meet with any interested parties.
- In reference to Alt. 1, a five foot sidewalk next to high speed travel lanes is scary. Mr. Cannon points out that the western sidewalk will probably be unnecessary due to the presence of the bike path.
- Considering that scenario of an offset bike path, suggest it should be shifted to the east.
- Mr. Burgmann, Barnstable, confirms that Rosary Lane is private.
- In reference to Alt. 3, suggest consideration of both roadways as two-way, two-lane roads—each roadway would be two lanes with one lane going each direction. This could be more feasible with turning restrictions. Engine House Road could be used as a jug handle.
- Ms. Daley points out that this may help us address the question of what type of road Yarmouth Road is by dividing out the uses.
- Yarmouth Road does not currently have emergency vehicle preemption at its traffic signals, but it is necessary.
- In reference to the depressed rail concept in Alt. 5, keep the height of the water table in mind.
- Do not use Hyannis Access Study as the total basis, the recommendations from that study should not limit creativity for this study.
- Important for southbound vehicles on Yarmouth Road to have a free right turn onto Rte. 28 westbound.
- It would be nice to have grade separation for Yarmouth Road to travel into downtown Hyannis without a signal.
- Cost efficient solutions should not be the only alternatives considered.
- Suggest allowing Camp St (in Yarmouth) to take traffic Northbound up to Rte. 6.
- The alternatives on handouts should be accompanied by descriptive text.

Glenn thanked the group for the comments, and concluded with the information that the study will continue with further analysis of alternatives, and wrap up of the study with recommendations is expected this fall.

**Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Federal Fiscal Year 2010** Patricia Daley, Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Technical Services Director, reminded the CCJTC that they had voted on the document at the last meeting, and reviewed the changes since then.

Comments, discussion, and/or questions followed and included:

- Tim Kochan, MHD District 5, suggested that the Buzzards Bay Village Transportation study be included in the Canal area study section, and that the Army Corps be invited to participate. Ms. Daley replied that initial contact has been made with the Army Corps, and an outreach meeting will be set up later in August, tentatively.
- Will the study look at the bridge replacement—because maintenance is ongoing, but eventually the bridges will need to be replaced and we need to plan for that.
- Is climate change a federal requirement? Perhaps this should include something about the evacuation signs—improved planning for evacuation.
- On the bike / ped planning inventory, Barnstable has interns updating sidewalk information.

Ms. Daley thanked the CCJTC for their input.

**PROJECT LIST for the next Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2010-2013** Priscilla Leclerc, CCC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the projects to date for the next TIP, and reported on the status of the 2009 Road Safety Audits (RSA) under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Ms. Leclerc then requested a recommendation on the project list from the CCJTC for the MPO.

A motion to recommend the MPO release for public comment the revised project list was made by Charleen Greenhalgh, and seconded by Bob Bersin.

Marlene McCollum, Falmouth, stated that she is uncomfortable with the amount in 2010 for RSA project that is not determined.

The motion was withdrawn.

With the final RSA just this week, Ms. Leclerc requested that a subcommittee of those towns with RSAs meet to discuss the implementation possibilities, and she would follow up via email.

### **Other Business**

**Public Participation Plan (PPP) Addendum** – Priscilla Leclerc reminded the CCJTC that she hand handed out the proposed PPP Addendum at the last meeting, and asked if there were any comments. She reported that Federal Highway Administration had requested that the MPO have a shorter time frame for public comment officially in place in the event an update is needed quickly—such as happened earlier this year with the first round of stimulus projects.

Mr. John Harris, CCC, mentioned that discussions on the programs begin prior to the official public comment, it is mostly stakeholders that are involved so they would be aware, and therefore, it does not seem to be a problem to shorten the comment period at times.

Priscilla added that the MPO will consider endorsement of the Addendum at their next meeting on August 24, 2009.

### **Public Comment**

Clay Schofield, CCC, and Karst Hoozeboom, NPS/CCNS, reported that the National Park Service (NPS) has scheduled Bike Feasibility Workshops for August 25, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Eastham Town Hall, and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hyannis Transportation Center.

**Adjourn** The CCJTC voted to adjourn at approximately 11:07 a.m.