



CAPE COD COMMISSION

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CAPE COD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes, November 17, 2006

MPO Members and or Representatives / Ex-Officio Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Thomas Cahir	Deputy Secretary for Transportation Programs, Executive Office of Transportation (EOT), Representing Secretary John Cogliano
Bernard McCourt	District Highway Director (DHD), Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office, representing Luisa Paiewonsky, MHD Commissioner
W. Bradford Crowell	Chairman, Cape Cod Commission (CCC)
William Doherty	Chairman, Barnstable County Commissioners (BCC)
Joseph Potzka	Administrator, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
Paul Niedzwiecki	Assistant Town Manager, Barnstable, representing Henry Farnham, Town Council President
John P. Hinckley, Jr.	Orleans Selectman (Sub-region C: Eastham, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet)
Jane Otis	Dennis Selectman (Sub-region B: Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Harwich, Yarmouth)
Wayne Taylor	Mashpee Selectman (Sub-region A: Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, Mashpee)
Michael Chong	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Damaris Santiago	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Robert Burgmann, P.E.	Barnstable Member and Chairman, Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC)
Wayne Lamson	Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority (SSA)

Other interested parties and staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Robert Edwards	Yarmouth citizen
Leah Kosnack	Shepley Wood Products
Stephanie Ostapowich	Assistant, Town of Barnstable
Susan Rohrbach	Legislative Aide of Senator Robert O'Leary
Margo Fenn	Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission (CCC)
Mark Carmichael	Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office
Timothy Kochan	Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office
Rachel Bain	Cape Cod Planning Liaison, EOT/OTP
Robert Mumford	CCC Transportation Program Manager
Priscilla Leclerc	CCC Senior Transportation Planner
Lev Malakhoff, Phd.	CCC Senior Transportation Engineer
Glenn Cannon, P.E.	CCC Transportation Engineer
Clay Schofield	CCC Transportation Engineer
David Aron	CCC Transportation Analyst

Call to Order / Introductions Tom Cahir, EOT/OTP, called the meeting to order about 1 p.m., and began the self-introductions that continued around the room.

Minutes of August 9, 2006 The minutes were approved with one abstention.

Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Lev Malakhoff, CCC, opened the RTP discussion and announced the Web site has the draft RTP chapters developed to date. David Aron, CCC staff, described what is included in the chapters on existing infrastructure. David mentioned that available data assists in looking at the system, usages, and connectivity, along with the socio-economic factors. Approximately one-third of the daily traffic over the bridges is a result of commuters. Several draft RTP sections were outlined—Goals & Objectives, Existing Conditions, Congestion, Safety and Security—that Lev mentioned is drafted as one chapter, but Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) wants to see two separate RTP chapters for Safety and Security. Comments and/or questions included:

- Emphasis on the importance of sidewalks is necessary
- Opportunity to encourage alternate fuel usage—not just for buses but for all vehicles
- Cooperation and communication among local, state, and federal stakeholders is important
- Is the water taxi suggestion similar to Steamship services, or proposed to compete with ferries—the Steamship Authority ridership is declining
- Skepticism of a workable road evacuation—need to have shelters in place
- Are public transit employees given training for security in a real setting; Joe Potzka, Admin., CCRTA, responded that the employees do have basic training and refreshers, but as far as incident training we have done some
- We need to have a system in place as a test to see if people know what to do in the emergency situation
- Are buses part of the emergency plan—to evacuate and/or bring people to shelters?
- Joe Potzka added that the CCRTA has participated in the County Emergency Plan efforts and part of our role is to provide buses.

Brad Crowell, Chairman, CCC, offered that the draft Regional Transportation Plan sections are remarkable and written in understandable language.

Tom Cahir agreed that it is a very good plan.

Michael Chong, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), mentioned that Federal Highway prefers that the Safety and Security elements of the plan be broken out into two chapters. Rachel Bain added that for federal approval of the plan, it is wise to listen to our federal partners.

The draft list of RTP projects was distributed for review and comment—

Lev Malakhoff, CCC, reported that the recommended RTP projects will have additional information, such as, more of a description, a target year for implementation, and an estimated cost.

Rachel Bain, OTP, added that comments should be submitted to Lev in a few weeks, and staff plan to return with the revised project priority list and RTP financials to the next MPO meeting—likely to be held sometime in January.

Robert Mumford, CCC Transportation Program Manager, brought up a related RTP item due to a request by Shepley Wood Products before MassHighway on the Sponsor a Highway Sign program. The current MassHighway policy, reflected in the RTP, prohibits business logo signs on the state highways east of the Cape Cod Canal, and Bob asked the group to consider this issue in the RTP update. Tom Cahir, EOT, said that we should put some information together and have a discussion on this topic.

The Draft RTP continues development, with the final RTP due to be presented for MPO endorsement in March 2007.

Three Safety Studies at Intersections in Bourne, Harwich, and Orleans Glenn Cannon, P.E., presented the alternatives and recommendations for the study locations—Otis Rotary in Bourne, .Route 137 and Route 39 intersection in Harwich, and the intersection of Route 6A and Route 28 in Orleans.

Tom Cahir mentioned that he would like to see the numbers on the Otis Rotary crashes with the crash locations spread around the circle.

John Hinckley, mentioned that he is impressed with the Harwich roundabout, and added that he would like to see a roundabout considered for the Orleans intersection location. Mr. Hinckley also inquired if further detail on the locations is to be included in the report.

Glenn Cannon, P.E., responded that the report will have more information, and that a roundabout in that location could be considered—it provides for the same level of service in that location—but there may be additional right-of-way needed for that alternative which could make it more costly.

Congestion Management Scope of Work – approval requested Clay Schofield, P.E., presented an overview of the Congestion Management Plan and the draft scope. Clay explained that Cape Cod is now in a category with larger MPOs because of the urbanized area (UZA) population over 200,000 in the 2000 Census. He added that one of the things needed in the process is a definition of congestion for Cape Cod.

With a motion by Bill Doherty, BCC, and a second, the MPO approved the Scope of Work for the Congestion Management Plan.

Reports and Other Information

Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC) Update

Bob Burgmann, Chairman of the CCJTC, Barnstable, stated that the CCJTC is working on a list of potential safety audit locations with MassHighway safety office.

Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Update Bob Mumford, CCC Transportation Program Manager, reported that two of the CCC transportation staff are leaving for new positions in other states. Bob thanked Tim and David for their efforts here, and wished them well in future endeavors.

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) Update There was none.

Project Updates—state and local project updates; 2006 TIP project updates

Priscilla Leclerc, CCC staff, mentioned that the Route 132 Boulevard project bids were opened and awaiting award.

Tom Cahir, EOT, stated that the Town of Bourne vote on the school is on November 29—the intersection is part of the Scenic Highway project—and that MHD Commission Luisa Paiewonsky asked that any change to the TIP be held off until after results of the town vote on the override.

Public Comment There was none.

Other business /Next Meeting Priscilla Leclerc mentioned that the RTP discussion is also on the next meeting agenda for the Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC), and the meeting is on Friday, December 1, 2006.

The next MPO meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2007.

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.