



CAPE COD COMMISSION

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Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Minutes, January 19, 2007

MPO Members and or Representatives / Ex-Officio Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
David Mohler	Deputy Director, Office of Transportation, Executive Office of Transportation (EOT), Representing Secretary Bernard Cohen
Mark Carmichael	District Projects, 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)
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>
Leah Kosnack	Shepley Wood Products
Susan Rohrbach	Legislative Aide of Senator Robert O'Leary
Margo Fenn	Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission (CCC)
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

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

Minutes of November 17, 2006 The minutes were approved.

Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Lev Malakhoff, CCC Senior Transportation Engineer, opened the RTP discussion and announced the Web site has the draft RTP chapters developed to date. Lev handed out a suggested addendum for incorporation into the safety chapter.

A brief discussion on the importance of emergency vehicles' ability to override traffic signals by use of an Opticom system included clarification on the maintenance issue. Bob Burgmann, Barnstable, reported that the Town is typically responsible for fixing the Opticom system, and in his experience they are susceptible to lightning strikes.

Robert Mumford, CCC Transportation Program Manager, brought up the "Sponsor a Highway"/ Sign program issue that was discussed at the last MPO meeting, and presented a few slides of typical signs. 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 for guidance on draft language for this item in the draft RTP.

William Doherty, County Commissioner, remarked that local business should be encouraged.

Brad Crowell, CCC Chairman, mentioned that if allowed, the Cape may be overwhelmed with signs.

Bob Burgmann, CCJTC Chairman /Barnstable, inquired if the policy applies to all state highways or just the limited access highways.

Mark Carmichael, Projects Director, MHD District 5, responded that the policy is for limited access highways.

John Hinckley, Sub-region C /Orleans, offered that the visitors to the Cape are drawn here to relax, and allowing the signs will detract from the Cape Cod natural setting—there is probably good reason for the state policy.

Dave Mohler, EOT/OTP and acting Chairman, summarized that the MPO Members support the current MassHighway policy regarding business logo signs, but may consider a change to allow the adopt-a-highway signs to have a business logo. Staff was directed to draft language to allow for business logos on the adopt-a-highway signs for the RTP public review process. With the new language, the existing logo sign prohibition would be retained for all other signage except for the adopt-a-highway signs.

The group then turned to the latest project /program /study list with comments and/or questions including:

- Orleans transportation center items are both funded through Congressman Delahunt's efforts, and the committee is already looking at locations—either the rotary or other viable points.
- "Speed reductions" may be possible, but not limit reductions
- Route 6 on-ramp near the Sagamore Bridge should be reconfigured
- Do not eliminate the entrance onto Route 6 at that on-ramp near the Sagamore Bridge
- That on-ramp could be reconfigured to allow for improved merging
- Could add summer rail service to the list
- That could be a demonstration project as a start for the year-round rail service project—to begin with summer service
- The third highway bridge should be eliminated from the project list as it is recognized in the transportation study list
- A tunnel should be considered as part of that study—high winds lead to closing the bridges to traffic, where there would not be a wind problem with a tunnel crossing
- The Bourne projects to retrofit the Rotary as a roundabout, and reconfigure the rotary should be one project—with short-term and longer term alternatives

Rachel Bain, EOT/OTP, suggested that Lev add costs and circulate for any further comments because the project list will be included in the draft RTP which is expected to be released for public review at the next MPO

meeting in February. Lev reported that the draft RTP will be available online, and anyone who wishes a paper copy should sign up for one on the sheet here today.

Reports and Other Information

Project Updates—state and local project updates Priscilla Leclerc, CCC staff, mentioned that a couple of Cape Cod projects received approval by the MassHighway Project Review Committee (PRC) the Route 132 Boulevard Landscaping project, and the intersection of Route 124 and Queen Anne Road in Harwich; those projects are now proceeding with the design process. Priscilla then asked if the Chatham structurally deficient bridge had received PRC approval.

Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (CCJTC) Update Bob Burgmann, Chairman of the CCJTC, Barnstable, stated that the CCJTC provided feedback on the RTP alternatives list at their last meeting, and supported the Route 132 Boulevard Landscaping Transportation Enhancements application.

Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Update Margo Fenn, CCC Executive Director, reported that she sent a letter in support of the landscaping for the Route 132 Boulevard project.

Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) Update Joe Potzka, Administrator, CCRTA, stated that the CCRTA is to occupy the new Maintenance facility in Dennis in the next 30 days.

Public Comment There was none.

Other business /Next Meeting The next MPO meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 1:00 pm, with the location to be determined.

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.