



## CAPE COD COMMISSION

3225 MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 226  
BARNSTABLE, MA 02630  
(508) 362-3828  
FAX (508) 362-3136

# Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

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

Minutes, Monday, September 28, 2009

### MPO Members and/or Representatives / Ex-Officio Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
David Mohler	Deputy Secretary for EOT Planning/ Chairman, representing Secretary James A. Aloisi, Jr., Executive Office of Transportation (EOT)
Pamela Haznar	Projects, Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) District 5 Office, representing Luisa Paiewonsky, MHD Commissioner
John D. Harris	Chairman, Cape Cod Commission (CCC)
Ron Bergstrom	Chairman, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA)
William Doherty	MPO Representative, Barnstable County Commissioners
Mark S. Ells	Barnstable Town Council Representative
Wayne Taylor	Mashpee Selectman (Sub-region A: Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, and Mashpee)
Lawrence Cole, Ph.D.	Harwich Selectman (Sub-region B: Yarmouth, Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, and Chatham)
Fred Gaechter	Truro Selectman (Sub-region C: Eastham, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet)
George Allaire	Chairman, Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee, Town of Yarmouth
Frank Fedele	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wayne Lamson	Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Steamship Authority (SSA)

### Other interested parties and staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Tom Cahir	Administrator, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
Rachel Bain	EOT Planning
Timothy J. Kochan	MassHighway District 5
Patty Daley	Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Chief of Staff / Technical Services Director
Priscilla Leclerc	CCC Senior Transportation Planner
Lev Malakhoff, Ph.D.	CCC Senior Transportation Engineer
Glenn Cannon	CCC Transportation Engineer
Clay Schofield	CCC Transportation Engineer
Andy Koziol	CCC Transportation Analyst
Ed Maroney	Barnstable Patriot
Jeff Stranger	Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway Co.
Chris Anzuoni	Plymouth & Brockton Street Railway Co.
Tim Madden	State Representative – Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
John Diaz	Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
Paul Lagg	Town of Chatham
Donald Aikman	Chatham Historical Commission
Norm Pacun	Friends of Mitchell River Drawbridge, Chatham
Joanne O'Keefe	Sandwich
Richard Andres	Centerville

**Call to Order / Introductions** – David Mohler, Deputy Secretary for Planning/ Chairman, representing Secretary James Aloisi, Jr., Executive Office of Transportation (EOT), welcomed everyone as he called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., and began the self-introductions that continued around the room.

**Minutes of August 24, 2009** – With a motion by Fred Gaechter, seconded by Ronald Bergstrom, the MPO members voted to approve the minutes.

**Sagamore Bridge Construction Update** – Frank Fedele, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains the nature of the construction work, detailing the three planned phases. He says work will continue until wintry weather becomes a hindrance, and then it will begin again once the climate is again favorable. Ideally, the first two phases will be complete before winter break, and the third phase will be completed before the start of summer.

Barnstable County Commissioner William Doherty expresses his concern that this project is not in the spirit of the Stimulus Bill, whereas the Cape Cod economy is actually being hurt by the side effects of the construction. He also inquires as to why the detail police officer is generally found in the middle of the construction zone, watching traffic pass by, rather than at the foot of the bridge directing a faster pace of travel. In response, Frank Fedele assures the MPO that the Army Corp of Engineers is sensitive to the needs of the local economy. Frank added that the work schedule has been shifted to allow a second off-Cape lane to be open Sunday afternoon and Monday morning.

Frank Fedele reported that the Army Corps has been discussing other options, and MassHighway has let message boards be posted further away for earlier warning of the bridge work. He added that Plymouth & Brockton has been helpful, and that a connection through the Mass. Military Reservation is not feasible.

When George Allaire, CCJTC, asks the age of the bridge's membrane, Frank Fedele answers roughly 28-29 years old; the bridge deck was replaced in the 1980's.

William Doherty suggests future projects have more discussion with entities like the Cape Cod Commission and town officials prior to construction. He feels more communication would lead to better planning. William Doherty says of the project, "It's stimulating us to go out of business!"

Larry Cole, Harwich Selectman, asks why work is not conducted during the least busy hours of the day (3-7 a.m.).

Frank Fedele explains that the scheduling is solely up to the contractor that has won the bid for the project, and they are working two ten hour shifts. Tim Madden, State Representative, asks if this is common practice to not stipulate working hours, and Frank Fedele says contracts are generally constricted by a start and end date – not specific working hours.

**Draft Cape Cod Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2010-2013** – Priscilla Leclerc, CCC Senior Transportation Planner, presents the Final Draft TIP for endorsement consideration by the MPO.

Norm Pacun, Friends of Mitchell River Drawbridge in Chatham, expresses his (and his organization's) disdain for a bridge that is not wooden. He explains how the planned replacement bridge, made of steel and concrete, will sully the character of the historic area surrounding the Mitchell River. It is made clear this is the last wooden drawbridge in Massachusetts. Donald Aikman of the Chatham Historical Commission supports the sentiments expressed by Norm Pacun, and further explains his desire to have the bridge redesigned as wooden, without losing its place on the TIP.

Ronald Bergstrom, Chatham Selectman, would like the cooperation of the MassHighway Department in the redesigning of the bridge, meanwhile allowing it to maintain its position on the TIP. He explains it will be less expensive to build, and it will be at least 30 years until it needs to be replaced.

On a different note, William Doherty mentions that the business community has an interest in the future of the Dalton Bridge between Bourne and Wareham.

In reference to the remaining \$932,598 from the 2010 TIP, it is asked whether or not the Brackett Road improvements in Eastham would be inserted into the TIP. This decision is yet to be determined. David Mohler, EOT, highlights that it is staff recommendation for the remaining funds to be left as “to be determined,” assuming they will be determined before the end of the year.

Tim Kochan, MassHighway District 5, does not recommend programming more than the current three projects in light of “cost creep.” In reply, Priscilla Leclerc, CCC transportation staff, mentions that the cost estimates for the three projects do include construction contingencies.

David Mohler, EOT, explains the Stimulus round 2 list is still being reviewed and is not quite ready to present.

Ronald Bergstrom makes a motion to approve the TIP as presented. The motion is seconded by Fred Gaechter and the MPO unanimously approves the TIP.

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

Larry Cole, Harwich Selectman, wonders if the withdrawal of the proposed hotel on Spring Street had any effect on the concepts. Glenn Cannon, considering the long range impacts of each concept, says that no single development has the ability to significantly impact the evaluation of the alternatives.

Ronald Bergstrom, speaking anecdotally, notes the large number of buildings and other properties within the study area that detract from the overall character of Cape Cod. He asks whether takings are being considered in any of the concepts. Glenn Cannon responds with a few examples of how takings are relevant in some concept plans.

Mark Ells, Barnstable DPW Director, takes a moment to praise the work of Glenn Cannon and the Task Force on the Yarmouth Road Corridor Study thus far.

### **Reports and Other Information (1-4)**

**1) Project Updates—state and local project updates** Pamela Haznar, MHD District 5 Office, reported on project updates.

**2) Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee Update** George Allaire, CCJTC Chairman, states that there is no information to report at this time.

**3) Cape Cod Commission Update** There was no CCC update.

**4) Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) Update** Mr. Bergstrom introduces the new CCRTA Administrator Thomas Cahir. Tom Cahir notes the warm welcome he has received at the RTA and expresses his appreciation for being in his position.

**Other business/Next Meeting** The next meeting was tentatively set for Monday, October 26, 2009, at noon.

**Public Comment** There was none.

**Adjourn** At 1:46 P.M., Mr. Bergstrom moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.