



## Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC)

### Draft Minutes | May 10, 2023 | 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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The meeting was held virtually with members of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.

The Vice-Chair announced that because the meeting was being held virtually all votes and other actions would be done by roll call. He stated that the members participating remotely would be announced as roll call is taken.

### Attendance/Roll Call

| <b>Member</b>                     | <b>Business Sector</b>   | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Greg Bilezikian                   | Real Estate Development  | Present           |
| Rob Brennan                       | Construction/Engineering | Joined at 5:12 pm |
| Kara Galvin                       | Workforce Development    | Present           |
| Lisa Guyon                        | Social Services          | Present           |
| Cindy Horgan                      | Childcare                | Present           |
| Tammi Jacobsen                    | Higher Education         | Joined at 5:07 pm |
| Alisa Magnotta                    | Social Services          | Absent            |
| Robert Talerman                   | Banking/Finance          | Present           |
| Julie Wake                        | Arts and Culture         | Present           |
| <i>Non-voting members</i>         |                          |                   |
| Mark Forest                       | BC Commissioner          | Absent            |
| Harold Mitchell                   | CCC Rep                  | Absent            |
| John Ohman                        | Assembly of Delegates    | Absent            |
| <b>Cape Cod Commission Staff:</b> |                          |                   |
| Kristy Senatori                   | Executive Director       |                   |
| Erin Perry                        | Deputy Director          |                   |
| Steve Tupper                      | Deputy Director          |                   |
| Chloe Schaefer                    | Chief Planner            |                   |
| David Still                       | Digital Comm. Specialist |                   |
| Sarah Colvin                      | Communications Manager   |                   |
| Siobhan Cavacco                   | Administrative Assistant |                   |

## Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with roll call.

## Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Greg Bilezikian, seconded by Lisa Guyon, the draft minutes from the April 12, 2023 BCEDC meeting were approved with a roll call vote.

## Roll Call Vote

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Greg Bilezikian | Yes |
| Kara Galvin     | Yes |
| Lisa Guyon      | Yes |
| Cindy Horgan    | Yes |
| Julie Wake      | Yes |
| Bert Talerman   | Yes |

## Cape Cod Canal Bridges

Steve Tupper, Deputy Director at the Cape Cod Commission, provided an update on the status of the Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program, a program that will include the eventual replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges. Mr. Tupper let the council know any detailed questions and comments they have about the program will be submitted directly to MassDOT and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Tupper said the current traffic issues with the Sagamore Bridge are from bridge maintenance and that major bridge rehabilitation would result in complete closure of the bridges for months. He said due to the age of each structure, major rehabilitation is inevitable if the bridges are not replaced. Mr. Tupper said if the bridge program is funded, the new bridges will be built parallel to the existing structures. He said there will be traffic issues during construction but less than with major rehabilitation.

Mr. Tupper said the Army Corps did a major evaluation of the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges and areas on each side of the canal and recommended replacing both bridges. He said MassDOT looked at the entire transportation network if both bridges were replaced and developed a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2020 that states the Army Corps will own, operate, and maintain the existing bridges until the new bridges are in place and then ownership will be transferred over to MassDOT. He said the two agencies will work cooperatively during construction until the transfer of ownership.

Mr. Tupper said there have been five public outreach meetings over the past two years and topics have ranged from scope of work, bridge design, lane configuration, and interchange alternatives. He said all five presentations can be viewed at [www.mass.gov/cape-bridges](http://www.mass.gov/cape-bridges).

Mr. Tupper said the next steps for the program include MassDOT submitting an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for a formal environmental review. He said there will be continued development of designs, public involvement, and continued pursuit of funding.

Mr. Tupper said there are two MassDOT Canal Bridges Open Houses, both on May 17<sup>th</sup>, from 12- 3pm and 5-8pm at the Bourne Veteran's Memorial Community Center. He said the study team will be available to answer questions from the public.

Mr. Tupper asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the bridge program before he continued with bridge maintenance discussion. There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Tupper said the current maintenance on the Sagamore Bridge involves the expansion joints, which requires ripping up the concrete and asphalt. He said there are many regional impacts due to the traffic, including emergency services, healthcare access, transportation of goods and services, commuter delays, and school access. Mr. Tupper reviewed traffic congestion pattern data from March 20 through May 7 for the Route 3 approach to the Sagamore Bridge, Route 6 approach to the Sagamore Bridge, Sandwich Road approaching the Bourne rotary, Route 28 approach to the Bourne Bridge, and Route 25 approaching the Bourne Bridge.

Mr. Tupper said strategies for managing the impacts of roadway activities include developing a traffic management plan that involves all stakeholders and partner agencies, providing accurate real time traffic and regular updates on construction progress, utilizing innovative contracting mechanisms to maximize safety and minimize delay, and implementing real time traffic management devices and incident management protocols.

Questions and comments:

Mr. Bilezikian commented on the coordination of MassDOT & the Army Corps and said it appears best practices are not being utilized.

Mr. Talerman said he thinks people would feel better if they knew the situation was temporary and that new bridges are in the future instead of major rehabilitation of each bridge. He asked if the council chair should work with Commission staff on a letter to federal officials. Ms. Senatori said it is appropriate to send a letter to MassDOT and the Army Corps and deferred to Mr. Tupper as to whether a letter would be helpful. Mr. Tupper confirmed both agencies have been hearing about these same concerns. He said he will convey the council comments to both and would be happy to work with the chair on a letter.

Mr. Talerman suggested they hold off on a letter for now but asked for council members' opinions.

Mr. Bilezikian said the BCEDC is for economic development and protecting the economy of the region and the letter should reflect these goals. He said the BCEDC focus should be to help facilitate leadership and funding for the new bridges.

Mr. Talerman agreed and said the immediate focus should be the impacts to fall tourism with the scheduled Bourne maintenance.

Ms. Wake said she thinks people need time to think about how the council can make an impact with the letter without sounding like they are complaining or repeating what others have already said.

Mr. Talerman asked if Commission staff will work with the executive committee on a letter and have it prepared for a future EDC meeting. Ms. Senatori confirmed they will do that.

There were no additional questions or comments.

## **Update on Transportation Plans Available for Public Comment**

Steve Tupper, Deputy Director at the Cape Cod Commission, provided an update on the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Federal Fiscal Year 2024-28 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Mr. Tupper said both plans were developed by the Cape Cod Commission staff on behalf of the Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He said the UPWP & TIP are available for public comment at [www.capecodcommission.org/mpo](http://www.capecodcommission.org/mpo) through May 15<sup>th</sup> with potential approval from the MPO on May 22, 2023.

Mr. Tupper provided a high-level overview of the UPWP tasks that include, Management and Support of the Planning Process, Data Collection and Analysis, Short- and Long-Range Transportation Planning, Technical Assistance, and Cape Cod Commission Planning and Regulatory Activities. He said two current projects they are working on are the Downtown Chatham Parking & Circulation Study and the Bus Stop & Multifamily Sidewalk Connectivity.

Mr. Tupper reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year 2024-2028 TIP and said it contains regionally significant transportation infrastructure projects over the next five years. He said there is over \$400 million in funding for the fifteen Cape towns and approximately 80% of that comes from the federal government and 20% from the state.

Mr. Tupper said current highway projects include Phase 1 of the Mashpee 151 Corridor improvements and the Orleans Roundabout at Route 28 & Route 39 and Quonset Road. He said Eastham is the only Cape town that has not received TIP funding, but they are working with the town on a possible Route 6 project.

Mr. Tupper reviewed scheduled highway projects for FY24-28:

FY2024: Mashpee - Phase 2 of Route 151; Harwich - sidewalk installation on Route 28; Barnstable/Yarmouth - Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension; Barnstable - Park & Ride Expansion and Improvements; Dennis/Yarmouth - Bass River Bridge Replacement; Sandwich -Quaker Meetinghouse Road Bridge over Route 6

FY2025: Mashpee - Continuation of Route 151; Provincetown - Shank Painter Road; Dennis/Harwich - Route 28; Bourne - Rail Trail and Route 6 median installation; Harwich - Harwich Elementary School Safe Routes

FY2026: Mashpee - Continuation of Route 151; Provincetown - Continuation Shank Painter Road; Barnstable - Route 6 resurfacing; Provincetown/Truro - Route 6 resurfacing

FY2027: Provincetown - continuation Shank Painter Road; Chatham - Route 28 at Main Street, Depot Rd, Queen Anne Road, Crowell Rd; Dennis - Route 28 Streetscape improvements; Barnstable - Route 6 resurfacing

FY2028: Dennis - Route 28 Streetscape improvements; Barnstable - Route 6 resurfacing; Yarmouth - Route 28 Improvements; Bourne - Resurfacing Route 28; Falmouth - Resurfacing Route 28

Mr. Tupper said FY2024-2028 Transit Projects include operating assistance, bus purchases, shelter improvements, electrification of fleet, and steamship authority support. He said total funding for these projects is \$178,891,915.

#### Questions and Comments:

Mr. Talerman asked why moving utilities underground is not part of the projects. Mr. Tupper said it is evaluated with each project and it comes down to funding.

Ms. Wake commented on transit shelter improvements, crosswalks, and studies on incorporating public art for safety. She said the City of Cambridge uses public art to help define safer spaces, pathways to schools, bike paths, and more. She asked if there is an opportunity for local artists to get involved earlier in the process on Cape Cod. Mr. Tupper said he will share her feedback and suggestions with the MPO. Mr. Talerman added that Augusta, Maine is another example of incorporating art into reconfiguration. Ms. Senatori suggested incorporating the suggestion into the CEDS.

There were no more questions or comments.

### **Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Update**

Kristy Senatori reported on recent staff activities.

Ms. Senatori said One Cape has been scheduled for July 31-August 1, 2023 and an agenda will be shared soon.

Ms. Senatori reviewed the Freshwater Initiative and said they have been working with Eastern Research Group on a freshwater economic analysis survey. She said they will share survey results at an upcoming BCEDC meeting. She said they have started pond monitoring and contracted with a limnologist to assist with the work.

Ms. Senatori reviewed the Regional Housing Strategy and said the Housing Preference survey they developed with Utile is online and live at [www.capecodcommission.org/HousingSurvey](http://www.capecodcommission.org/HousingSurvey). She invited members to complete the survey and asked them to share the survey link within their networks. Ms. Senatori said they held the first round of housing stakeholder meetings last month and the next round is scheduled for later this month.

Ms. Senatori said there is an EV Expo scheduled for June 3, 2023 at the Hyannis Transportation Center.

Ms. Senatori said they are completing work on the Low-Lying Roads project. She said the last five towns are going through the process and public meetings are being held to help prioritize roadways. She said they are also working on identifying funding for towns.

Ms. Senatori said the third cohort of Climate Ambassadors completed their last meeting in person and presented their final projects.

There were no questions or comments.

### **Member Reports**

Julie Wake provided an update for the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod. Ms. Wake invited members to a public art panel discussion on public art at the JFK Museum in Hyannis on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6 pm. She said it is free & open to the public.

Greg Bilezikian provided an update. Mr. Bilezikian said on the philanthropic front, the foundation is working with each town to see what impact they can have on housing. He said they are also creating a 503c around the J1 visa program. Mr. Bilezikian said there are retailers interested in the Christmas Tree locations and they are finding women over sixty are a great asset to the workforce.

Cindy Horgan provided an update for early childcare. Ms. Horgan said Mary Pat Messmer, Chair of the Cape Cod Chamber Early Childcare Task Force, invited Commissioner Amy Kershaw to the next meeting and said it is a good opportunity to provide a voice for the Cape.

Kara Galvin provided an update for MassHire. Ms. Galvin said their healthcare grant will likely be extended for a few years and said they are going to release a PSA in the next couple of weeks about the grant. She said their ArtWorks program celebrated Cape Cod Art Week with their largest cohort of art students. Ms. Galvin said they are giving out fifteen scholarships to Cape Cod high school students from five Cape Cod schools. Ms. Galvin said they recently applied for an offshore wind grant and the Undersecretary for Workforce Development, Jennifer James, will be visiting the Cape in early June.

Lisa Guyon provided an update for WE CAN. Ms. Guyon said they opened their new office on Airport Road in Hyannis. She said they are open Tuesday – Thursday for walk-ins and they run scheduled workshops and programs five days a week. Ms. Guyon said they are working on a grant fund collaboration with Amplify People of Color to reach more women of color and to understand their needs. She said the grant collaboration made her think of the BCEDC's lack of representation of immigrant and people of color business owners.

Tammi Jacobsen provided an update for Cape Cod Community College. Ms. Jacobsen said they are hosting a series of mental health first aid workshops in Hyannis/Lower Cape that are free of charge for professionals in the community. She said there is also a leadership series for health and human services professionals. Ms. Jacobsen said people can sign up at <https://www.capecod.edu/ahec-community-initiatives/professional-development-programs/>.

Rob Brennan provided an update for CapeBuilt. Mr. Brennan said the Cordial Eye moved into 255 Main Street, further expanding the art presence on Main Street. He said this was a focus of the East Main Street TDI that Mass Development has been working on for a few years. Mr. Brennan said they have been working with Secretary Howe and the state is moving forward on a program to bring back the starter home. He said homebuilders and the Cape Cod Commission have been asked to participate. Mr. Brennan said they received 30K in pro bono legal assistance from Mintz Levin in Boston to help file corporation documents for the Climate and Housing Innovation Center.

Bert Talerman did not have an update for Cape Cod Five but said based on prebooking levels for the summer season, people seem upbeat and looking forward to a good season on the Cape.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Adjourn**

Upon a motion by Greg Bilezikian, seconded by Rob Brennan, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm with a roll call vote.

### **Roll Call Vote**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Greg Bilezikian | Yes |
| Rob Brennan     | Yes |
| Kara Galvin     | Yes |
| Lisa Guyon      | Yes |
| Cindy Horgan    | Yes |
| Julie Wake      | Yes |
| Tammi Jacobsen  | Yes |
| Bert Talerman   | Yes |

### **List of Materials Used/Presented**

- Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program presentation
- Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 – September 30) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Federal Fiscal Year 2024-28 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Presentation