

Martha's Vineyard Joint Transportation Committee

c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission, Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, 02557 508-893-3453

Minutes of the Meeting held on November 1, 2006 at the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

In Attendance

Voting Members

Steve Berlucchi, County of Dukes County
Richard Combra Jr., Town of Oak Bluffs
Fred Lapiana, Town of Tisbury

David Whitmon, Bicycles and Pedestrians
Durwood Vanderhoop, Town of Aquinnah
(Wampanoag Tribe)

Ex-Officio Members

Angela Grant, VTA
Mark London, MVC
Dan Greenbaum, Citizen
Mary Snyder, Citizen

Others

Richard Randolph, Town of Aquinnah
(Wampanoag Tribe)
Bill Venno, MVC
Jim Miller, MVC

Since there was no initially no quorum, those present had an informal exchange of information, which is summarized below. While a quorum was achieved partway through the meeting, it proceeded informally.

1. Membership

- Steve Berlucchi announced that Al DeVito (Town of West Tisbury) has resigned, and that he has asked the town to appoint a new member.

2. Drawbridge

- In a letter to the Drawbridge Committee, the Town of Oak Bluffs asked that the emergency truck route (in the event of a drawbridge failure) be from Barnes Road left into County Road, and right onto Eastville Avenue. It was recommended that this be approved at a future meeting of the JTC. The MVC will prepare a map of the proposed route.

3. TIP

- The Tribe is eligible for Federal funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that could be used to supplement transportation funds throughout the Island.
- Roads that connect tribe members to important areas could be added to the Tribe's road inventory. No ownership rights or maintenance obligations would be transferred, but the road owner would have to agree in writing, and state that insufficient maintenance funds are available. If the Tribe's road inventory grows, the funds available for their annual planning and construction allotment grow as well, from the current level of roughly \$37,500 to possibly over \$60,000.

- Funds are also available for high-priority and emergency projects that could be used to supplement projects Island-wide (but cannot be the sole funding source), possibly up to \$1 million annually. Dedicated funding is also available for bridges.
- All of these types of funds can be used for a share of design work, and also for projects that do not meet AASHTO standards (as many Vineyards projects do not).
- It was asked if these fees might disqualify other Federal funds. The Tribe will clarify that issue.

4. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Mark London sent a rough draft of transportation projects in advance of the meeting. In order to complete the RTP, we need to work primarily on two sections: a list of projects for the next 25 years and project funding.
- The list of projects contains all eligible projects that the JTC might possibly consider. Next, we should evaluate these projects according to the TIP project selection criteria. This will allow us to select and rank projects for inclusion in the plan.
- The MVC will attempt to post a revised draft on the MVC website by November 6.
- A second public meeting will be held on November 14 at 5 pm.
- The Town of Oak Bluffs will advertise in Friday's Gazette for a designer for the Lake Avenue project. Oak Bluffs is also exploring the legality of awarding design of the roundabout to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. based on their previous RFP. Mark London added that Oak Bluffs has advertised for a designer for the New York Avenue project as well.
- Steve Berluca noted that \$190,000 for a 4' walkway from the State Forest MUP to West Tisbury will be voted on at the next West Tisbury town meeting in November. David Whitmon suggested an alternative route for that walkway.
- Fred Lapiana suggested meeting with MHD in Boston to clarify the Vineyard road classification and improve our ability to get MHD funds for routine improvements, now often rejected.
- Angela Grant suggested MUP improvements on Beach Rd., broken down by town. She also suggested bus stops by town (at \$5,000 to \$15,000 per stop), and that the VTA capital budget be included in the RTP.
- Mark London asked that each town provide preliminary costs for the projects in their town.
- Steve Berluca recommended that "infrastructure preservation" be reworded as "safety improvements."
- Fred Lapiana suggested a new MUP on Skiff Ave.
- Steve Berluca suggested new 4' walkways on Old County Rd. in West Tisbury from State Rd. to the State Forest (phase 1) and from the West Tisbury School to West Tisbury Center (phase 2).
- We should prioritize the projects at the next JTC meeting when there is a quorum.

The informal meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday December 6, 2006 at 10:30 am.