

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 January 17, 2007 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

Dan Greenbaum, Town of Chilmark

Fred Lapiana, Town of Tisbury

Ex-Officio Members

Angela Grant, VTA

Mark London, MVC

David Whitmon, bikes and pedestrians

Other

Bill Venno, MVC

Jim Miller, MVC

Steve Berlucchi, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

1. Minutes

- The minutes of the December 6, 2006 were corrected and adopted.

2. TIP

- MassHighway has indicated that the budget for replacement of the Sengekontacket bridges has increased and the TIP modification must be publicly noticed and adopted. It was noted that the replacement would not occur until fall '08.

Fred Lapiana moved and it was duly seconded that the JTC recommend that the current TIP be modified to increase the budget of the Sengekontacket Pond Bridges from \$7.5 million to \$9.1 million and will forward this recommendation to the Committee of Signatories barring the receipt of negative comment during the 30-day public consultation period.

- Richard Combra, Jr. announced that Oak Bluffs should finalize the contract for the design for Lake Avenue with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI) by the end of the week. He stated that GPI and Michael Dutton were aware of the critical need for quick action on that project. The idea is to quickly develop a basic plan to begin the process of Town approval. Steve Berlucchi and Richard Combra will meet with the Conservation Commission.
- The previous award of the design contract for the roundabout to GPI will be reactivated and the Oak Bluffs selectmen will likely vote to use Chapter 90 funds for the design work.
- Fred Lapiana announced that Tisbury has begun one part of the William Street improvements. The remainder could cost more than \$250k, and it was agreed to leave the project on the TIP. Also, Fred said that he would explore alternate funding for the connector roads, but they will be left on the TIP.
- It was agreed to remove the West Tisbury walkways from the TIP.

- It was agreed that it would be desirable to put together a more detailed study of the proposed new MUPs between Vineyard Haven, Oak Bluffs, and linking to the one leading to Edgartown, including the feasibility of alternated routes. Mark London will contact GPI to find out about the scope and cost of a similar study they did for Nantucket. It should be funded by the MVC if possible.
- Fred requested the MVC's assistance with filling out paperwork for the Transportation Enhancement Program for William Street; Mark agreed.
- It was noted that MassHighway was supposed to design the work on the intersection of State and County Roads, but hadn't in two years.

3. RTP

- It was agreed that members would look over the copies of the RTP distributed and get comments back soon, so that it could be adopted at a meeting of the JTC in one week.
- Mark London mentioned the possible increase in TIP funding beginning in 2011, as per guidance from MassHighway, increasing the total budget for the next 25 years. It was agreed to adjust the budgets of projects and add additional projects, which had been constrained based on a more modest budget estimate.
- It was noted that such an increase would require a large list of eligible projects that could be ready to go. Fred Lapiana noted that design work is often a stumbling block for towns. There was a discussion of options to have a permanent staff engineer rather than having to hire private firms for level 1 projects not needing a traffic or structural engineer. This position could be housed at the MVC or Dukes County. Steve Berlucchi agreed to see what he could do, but mentioned constraints on his time. It was suggested that the towns could contribute Chapter 90 funds to hire an entry-level engineer (with a BS and an EIT certification) who would be under the supervision of the MVC and work with the County engineer to design road projects. It was mentioned that the salary of an engineer could be more than offset by the savings Towns would realize by not hiring designers on a project-by-project basis. It was agreed that:
 - Steve Berlucchi will outline a job description;
 - Fred Lapiana and Richard Combra will investigate the possibility of such an arrangement;
 - The JTC will indicate this need to the County Charter Study Commission.
- It was agreed to put in \$6 million on the list of projects for VTA bus replacement, namely replacing the fleet twice over the 25-year period.
- The possibility of a water taxi run by the VTA was also discussed.
- Each town is asked to submit a list of additional projects by next Monday afternoon. The revised list of projects will be compiled and sent out on Tuesday.

4. Other

- It was agreed that, at the next meeting, we would discuss outreach to the new administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 pm.

The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday January 24, 2007 at 10:00 am.