

Martha's Vineyard Joint Transportation Committee

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

Minutes of the Meeting and Public Forum on Public Participation held on April 11, 2007 at the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

In Attendance

Voting Members

Steve Berlucchi, County of Dukes County

Stuart Fuller, Town of Edgartown

Fred LaPiana, Town of Tisbury

Dan Greenbaum, Town of Chilmark

Ex-Officio Members

Angela Grant, VTA

Mark London, MVC

David Whitmon, bikes and pedestrians

Bridget Tobin, SSA

Ken Johnson, Edgartown VTA

Karen Pearson, EOT (via phone)

Others

Art Flathers, citizen

Jim Miller, MVC

Chris Fried, citizen

Monica Alessi, VTA

Susan Von Steiger, OB COA

Laurie Schreiber, Edg. COA

Adam Wilson, citizen

Nancy Phillips, OB Boardwalk-to-Beach Task Force

Steve Berlucchi, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

1. Minutes

- The minutes of the March 21, 2007 were corrected and adopted.

2. Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Regarding the PPP draft of April 2007:

- Jim Miller presented the changes suggested through his conversations with MHD and FHWA/FTA. Specifically:
 - some minor wording changes (to reference SAFETEA-LU, etc.),
 - clarify membership in the JTC, with the objective of increasing public participation in the JTC, without unduly burdening the JTC's process for conducting business; membership suggested would include:
 - eight voting members (adding the Tribe to improve coordination),
 - specifically listing specific *ex-officio* members who would be recruited,
 - and broadly listing other categories that may choose to provide *ex-officio* members
 - clarify the requirements for a quorum (unchanged),
 - delete an unnecessary Advisory Group and associated language,
 - clarify that JTC materials are available at the MVC website,
 - clarify the public-comment periods required by SAFETEA-LU,
- Art Flathers suggested that the SSA must be on the Committee of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding that creates the JTC. Mark London clarified how the JTC relates to the COS, and noted that the COS doesn't meet; since it doesn't meet, its

membership seems irrelevant. Karen Pearson said she would look into the process of changing the MOU to add the SSA. Steve Berlucchi suggested that the JTC take it up at a later meeting, since it is not a matter of public participation.

- Ken Johnson recommended adding a representative of the disabled to the list of JTC *ex-officio* members; this seemed prudent.
- Angela Grant suggested adding a representative from the airport (MVY) to the list of JTC *ex-officio* members; it was noted the MVY manager is currently on the JTC, and that the absence of that position in the draft was an oversight.
- Karen Pearson suggested a member representing conservation groups be added specifically. Art Flathers noted that conservation groups are not in the transportation business. It was noted that the proposed wording of the PPP allows for that based on interest from those groups.
- Angela Grant expressed a concern that too many *ex-officio* members might detract from the viability of the JTC, and suggested perhaps a sub-committee of these members. Mark London expressed doubt that *ex-officio* members would slow down JTC business, as they would likely only participate as issues warranted. Art Flathers suggested that communicating with and informing *ex-officio* members outside of JTC meetings would be a way to avoid confusion at JTC meetings.
- Angela Grant suggested that the JTC Chair and the Coordinator can serve the function of the Advisory Group.
- Art Flathers suggested a description of the COS and JTC be added. He also asked EOT about SSA funding mechanisms, and suggested that the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers might also be members of the COS. Karen Pearson replied that the SSA does receive some funds from the FHWA, and while the Coast Guard and Army Corps could be members of the COS, she would leave that decision to the JTC. Steve Berlucchi said that the JTC would take it up at a later meeting.
- Mark London briefly described the Island Plan in relation to the opportunity for the public to be involved in transportation decisions.
- Nancy Phillips, a member of the Oak Bluffs Boardwalk-to-Beach Task Force and also a nurse who works with the elderly and disabled, suggested that the current transportation system for persons with limited mobility is not flexible enough for many folks with needs. She specifically mentioned cruise visitors, many of whom are elderly, and suggested smaller vehicles in the Circuit Ave. area, and also more, smaller vehicles for the Lift. Steve Berlucchi thanked her for her suggestions, and recommended that she bring her specific concerns to the Oak Bluffs representative to the JTC, and also to the Town. He mentioned for the record that the first option for citizens to raise a concern is their town representative to the JTC, who is often a town official, though anyone is welcome to come to JTC meetings and present their issue to the group as a whole.
- Susan Von Steiger of the Oak Bluffs Council on Aging mentioned that off-Island transportation for the elderly in need of health care is often difficult, expensive, and uncomfortable for those in pain. Angela Grant responded that the VTA operates vans to Boston for those needs, but that the nature of the vehicles is such that they are not always comfortable for those in pain, and that she doesn't have the funds to provide alternate means, such as smoother-riding passenger vehicles. She noted that there are private

providers who can cater to those in pain, but acknowledged that many seniors have limited incomes. She also mentioned that the VTA Consumer Advisory Group was an appropriate forum to address these concerns, and that the group needed participants.

- Adam Wilson, former owner of Adam Cab for 13 years, brought up the issue of cabs being licensed in only one town, and the problems that causes. Fred LaPiana mentioned that the JTC is aware of the problem, and that it is an action item in the RTP. He also mentioned the roadblocks to resolving it, and suggested Mr. Wilson approach the towns' Boards of Selectmen as a first step, since they control the issue of taxi parking and licensing.
- There being no more comment from the public, Steve Berlucchi thanked everyone for coming.

4. Other

- Jim Miller summarized the letter Joe Eldredge of the Christiantown Rd. Ass'n sent to the JTC regarding intersections in his neighborhood. It was suggested that discussion be tabled until the West Tisbury representative was present.
- Fred LaPiana asked if the JTC should be involved in the DRI review process, but remarked that he was not advocating that it should be. Mark London mentioned that it would certainly be appropriate to keep the JTC informed on DRI projects at future JTC meetings. Mark also mentioned that the JTC should be involved in drafting the upcoming DRI policy, and that we can discuss that at the next meeting.
- Mark London updated the JTC on the drawbridge, mentioning that MHD has received bids for construction of the temporary drawbridge, and that construction could begin this fall. The designer for the permanent drawbridge has received a notice to proceed.
- Steve Berlucchi gave updates on projects.
 - New York Avenue resurfacing project will likely be advertised this summer, and work could start this fall. While MHD has agreed to increase shoulder width by decreasing the berms, travel lane widths will not be reduced.
 - Lake Avenue is in the design phase, with survey work completed. Oak Bluffs has requested an accelerated review from the state, and is dealing with the issue of encroachments into the right-of-way.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.