

# 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 June 6, 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

Deb Cini, Town of West Tisbury

Dan Greenbaum, Town of Chilmark

Richie Combra, jr., Town of Oak Bluffs

#### Ex-officio Members

Angela Grant, VTA

Mark London, MVC

David Whitmon, bikes and pedestrians

#### Others

Bob Clermont, Thrifty Car Rental

Art Flathers, citizen

Jim Miller, MVC

Bill Venno, MVC

Lin Gallant, MVC

Chris Fried, citizen

Steve Berlucchi, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

### **1. Minutes**

- The minutes of the May 2, 2007 were corrected and adopted.

### **2. Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Regarding the PPP draft of April 2007:

- Jim Miller presented the comments received from FHWA. Specifically:
  - to separate the by-laws and PPP into two distinct documents; it was agreed;
  - to include FHWA and FTA as *ex-officio* members; it was agreed;
  - to change certain comment periods to conform to FHWA suggestions; it was agreed.
- Other slight language corrections were agreed to; including language regarding Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898) and Limited English proficiency (EO 13166). Angela Grant clarified the requirements of EO 13166 with regard to providing foreign language text of certain documents; the JTC agreed to begin investigating how best to abide by the requirements, specifically with regard to the Brazilian community. It was agreed to put a notice on the website in Brazilian Portuguese announcing the availability of JTC documents in Brazilian Portuguese.
- ***The JTC voted to adopt the PPP unless there is substantive additional public comment requiring further consideration by the JTC. The document is recommended for approval by the Committee of Signatories. The motion was adopted unanimously.***

### **3. TIP 2008-2011**

- Mark London explained that in a few years, when the drawbridge and connector roads are proceeding, we will have an abundance of TIP-eligible projects. However, the current TIP contains two projects that need to be changed, the '09 project for William St. in

Tisbury is ineligible, and the '10 project for County Rd. can't wait for TIP funds and that OB will pay for it. Richie Combra, jr. explained that the listed project is the section of County Road between Barnes and Pennsylvania, which will improve both drainage and separate the MUP from the roadway. Dave Whitmon expressed surprise that the project did not include from Pennsylvania to E-VH Rd. or from Barnes to Eastville. It was agreed to leave improvements to this section of Barnes Rd. as the '10 TIP project.

- Mark London noted that MHD is emphasizing safety improvements in the TIP, particularly analyzing dangerous intersections, based on accident rates. It was noted that the intersection of State Rd. and Old County in West Tisbury is particularly dangerous, and that it would make an ideal candidate for '09, provided MHD, who has the responsibility for the road, designs the project. Mark suggested, and it was agreed, that the JTC should begin to sketch a plan for this intersection (Dan Greenbaum volunteered), so that the design and local approval can be obtained well in advance. It was agreed to begin the process of getting this project approved for '09.
- Dave Whitmon expressed his previously stated concern for safety on the island bike paths, in that they lack proper separation and barriers from the roadway. The path along Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road being an excellent example of this. Angela Grant expressed a need for VTA buses to pull off the road, which a continuous barrier could thwart. It was agreed this was a concern that could be accommodated. Stuart Fuller said the cost of steel-back wood barriers is \$70/linear foot, but in bulk that cost can come down to the range of \$40. Thus \$400,000 could provide almost two miles of barrier. It was agreed to explore this project for the Edgartown section of E-VH Rd., since it is the most problematic, for the '10 project, and move the County Rd. project to '11.
- Steve Berlucchi gave an update on the Lake Avenue project ('07) stating that things look promising, despite challenges. He and Richie Combra mentioned that the acceptance of easements must be on the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Oak Bluffs Special Town Meeting agenda.

#### **4. Other**

- Art Flathers spoke to the need for more safety information regarding roadway flooding. he noted that during a recent rainstorm he was surprised by flooding along Airport Road that he had not noticed previously. He asked if this was a JTC topic, and how they might rectify the problems, particularly in areas that flood unexpectedly. Steve Berlucchi and Richie Combra mentioned that several troublesome spots have been and are being addressed through capital projects, such as County Road by the airfield. Deb Cini noted that flooding near Mayflower Lane has led to accidents. Angela Grant suggested PSAs on WMVY and MVTV. Art Flathers suggested permanent signage, but the efficacy of signage was questioned by several members. A letter to the town DPWs was suggested, but it was agreed that the JTC members in attendance contact their town DPWs about the issue, and Steve Berlucchi said he would contact Ed Panek at MHD. Stuart Fuller promised to check on the Airport Road problem that Art had encountered.
- Jim Miller gave a brief update on DRIs that might affect traffic, specifically the YMCA. He also mentioned the upcoming DRI transportation policy that could require financial mitigation from applicants. Mark London noted that such funds could pay for design work on TIP and other projects.
- Jim Miller noted that Chris Fried had recently produced a video that provides excellent

insight on the difficulty of cycling from Tisbury to Oak Bluffs. In the video it is shown how the shoulders on Beach Road, Eastville Road, and New York Avenue varies considerably, making navigating that critical gateway to the Island very treacherous for inexperienced cyclists, of which the Island sees many. It was agreed to send a copy of the video to Tisbury and OB DPWs, and also to MHD Region 5 (Mark Carmichael). With the video should go a letter to MHD requesting *continuous uniform* shoulders of at least 30" when the roadway is resurfaced.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at 10:15 a.m.