

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 August 9, 2007 at the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

In Attendance

Voting Members

Steve Berlucahi, County of Dukes County

Fred Lapiana, Town of Tisbury

Dan Greenbaum, Town of Chilmark

Richie Combra, jr., Town of Oak Bluffs

Ex-officio Members

Mark London, MVC

Karen Pearson, EOTPW*

Others

Jim Miller, MVC

Lin Gallant, MVC

Pamela Haznar, MHD*

Timothy Kochan, MHD*

Bill Travers, MHD*

*attended via telephone

Steve Berlucahi, Chair, opened the meeting at 11:09am.

1. TIP Funding for FFY 2007

Steve Berlucahi noted that this was an emergency meeting, called in advance of a MARPA meeting planned for Friday, August 10, 2007 so that MHD and MARPA would be apprised of the situation in the Martha's Vineyard MPO regarding TIP funding for FFY 2007.

Steve Berlucahi gave an update of the status of the Lake Avenue project scheduled for the FFY 2007 TIP. In a meeting with the project designers GPI, and Michael Dutton (OB Town Manager) on Monday, August 6, it was determined that the project will not be ready to proceed in time to be eligible for the '07 funds. In addition, the project's estimated cost has risen from \$500,000 to roughly \$1,400,000. On Tuesday he called MHD D5 to see if the funds could be used on-Island. He was told they could be, if we could come up with a project that was on MHD property and had no right-of-way or environmental issues. MHD suggested three projects, all in Tisbury: removing the train tracks on Beach Road at the boatyard, resurfacing State Road near the Tashmoo overlook, and reconstructing the sidewalks on Beach Road from five-corners to the drawbridge. On Wednesday, Steve Berlucahi spoke again with MHD, and asked if other projects could be eligible, since Tisbury had some concerns about the ones MHD proposed. MHD said that other projects would be considered, so Steve Berlucahi alerted the JTC to proposed projects that meet the MHD conditions. The purpose of today's meeting is to prioritize a list of projects, and okay them with MHD D5.

Mark London mentioned that if MHD was not willing to agree to keep the funds on-Island, we could use the money for VTA buses; he stressed that we need an agreement, possibly in writing, from MHD. At this point Karen Pearson from EOTPW was connected and updated on the situation. She mentioned that an amendment to the '07 TIP would be necessary, and that the '08 TIP would have to be readjusted once the JTC decides how to reschedule the projects. Steve Berlucahi said that his preference would be to wait to redo the '08 TIP until a regular meeting, since this one was called so hastily and he didn't want to circumvent the public process.

27 At this point, Karen Pearson signed off, and Pamela Haznar, Timothy Kochan, and Bill Travers
28 from MHD D5 were connected.

29 Fred Lapiana commented on MHD's suggested projects.

- 30 • Tisbury hopes to build a MUP and do utility work from five corners to the drawbridge, and
31 thus feels that the sidewalk, while in disrepair in that area, would not be a good place to
32 spend the funds.
- 33 • While Tisbury would be happy to remove the train tracks on Beach Road, he feels that there
34 would be some public opposition to removal of these historic structures. MHD noted that the
35 owner of the boatyard was in favor of their removal. Fred Lapiana was aware of that fact,
36 but feels that a public hearing would be necessary and possibly difficult.
- 37 • Fred Lapiana didn't feel that a rebuild of the Tashmoo overlook section of State Road would
38 be necessary, and that the alignment problem could be fixed by re-striping. He also noted
39 that drainage problems in that area should be remedied in conjunction with any substantial
40 work in the area.

41 Fred Lapiana then presented Tisbury's preferred projects, namely:

- 42 • Maintenance of the seawall on Beach Rd. He believes MHD owns the seawall (it protects an
43 MHD road), and Tisbury does not have the funds for the work the wall requires. The project
44 also makes sense in conjunction with the drawbridge project. Pamela Haznar said it would
45 not be a likely '07 project due to the need for permits, but would check on the ownership,
46 and look into it for a future project. Fred Lapiana asked if MHD had an open-ended permit
47 for that type pf maintenance work, and MHD said they would look into it.
- 48 • Reconstructing the sidewalk on State Road between Pine Tree Road and Camp Street. This
49 project would reconstruct the sidewalk on this stretch of road with concrete sidewalks and
50 granite curbs, and would conform to the previously reconstructed sections of sidewalk at either
51 end. He estimated this stretch of road at 1000' (a later check shows that section of State
52 Road to be closer to 3000'). Bill Travers (MHD) said that that section of sidewalk could be
53 done using MHD's Area D (Cape and Islands) state maintenance contract, and could be done
54 in the spring. There appear to be no environmental or right-of-way issues. Fred Lapiana also
55 noted that a catch basin in the area would improve drainage problems further down State
56 Road. Steve Berlucchi said he and Fred Lapiana would provide measurements and other
57 details to MHD.

58 Richie Combra, jr. stated that he felt no Oak Bluffs projects would be eligible. Bikeway
59 improvements were suggested, but County Road is a town-owned road, and the end of the MUP
60 on Sea View Avenue is under review by the Oak Bluffs Boardwalk to Beach Committee, and
61 would likely have right-of-way issues.

62 Steve Berlucchi summarized the conversation to this point to clarify:

- 63 • It was agreed that the sidewalk on Beach Road was not a good use of funds.
- 64 • Tisbury insists on a pubic hearing before removing the Beach Road railroad tracks. Mark
65 London suggests that it could be included in the projects listing and a public hearing could
66 be held before work was to begin. Pamela Haznar agreed to put it on the list, and revisit
67 the issue after a public hearing.

- 68 • The seawall is the preference of Tisbury and the JTC, but ownership and permitting issues
69 remain.
- 70 • The State Road sidewalk will remain on the list, with the understanding that the first option
71 would be to use the MHD contract funds for that project. Fred Lapiana asked how
72 sidewalks were chosen for that contract, as this was the first he'd heard of it; MHD replied
73 that towns come to them with requests, and MHD prioritizes them. MHD estimates the cost
74 for this project, including concrete sidewalk and granite curb, at \$200/linear foot.
- 75 • The Tashmoo overlook project would be the next priority. MHD noted that the road needs
76 resurfacing, not just re-striping. Fred Lapiana mentioned a continuing drainage problem,
77 and Pamela Haznar requested info on that issue, noting that MHD did some work there
78 three years ago. Fred Lapiana suggested MHD check with Ed Panek. Mark London noted
79 that the Tashmoo project would be very popular, but would still require a public hearing.
80 It was agreed to hold one.

81 Stuart Fuller (Edgartown DPW) was not in attendance, but had sent in a request to consider two
82 projects: 1) A drainage problem on Edgartown-West Tisbury Road near Meetinghouse Road that
83 causes a hazardous accumulation of sand on the adjacent multi-user path (MUP). 2) The
84 generally poor condition of the Beach Road MUP, with potholes, erosion causing the path itself to
85 crumble, and sand accumulation. MHD noted that the condition of the MUP at Farm Pond in Oak
86 Bluffs was under review already, and that these problems were considered more a maintenance
87 issue than a TIP project. MHD promised to look closer at these areas, and asked that Stuart Fuller
88 provide details on the drainage problem. It was agreed to treat these issues as maintenance, not
89 TIP projects.

90 Steve Berluca again summarized the final prioritized list of projects for the FFY 2007 TIP funds:

- 91 1. The seawall on Beach Road in Tisbury, if MHD owns and has an open permit.
92 2. The State Road sidewalk between Pine Tree Road and Camp Street in Tisbury, only if it
93 cannot be done under MHD's existing state contract.
94 3. The Tashmoo overlook area on State Road in Tisbury. It was suggested that the island
95 could also be redone to reflect the changes in the roadway alignment. This project will
96 require a public hearing.
97 4. The railroad track removal on Beach Road in Tisbury, with public input.

98 Mark London asked if MHD could assure the JTC that funds would be spent on-Island, and MHD
99 assured the JTC that this was their intention.

100 There was additional discussion about the Tashmoo overlook project, specifically the idea of re-
101 aligning the island to conform with the roadway re-alignment. It was agreed that this was a good
102 idea, and Dan Greenbaum guessed that at \$25/linear foot for granite, resetting the island would
103 cost roughly \$25,000. Fred Lapiana noted that the project needs to be designed properly to
104 ensure proper roadway alignment. Steve Berluca agreed to sketch it, then a MHD designer
105 would check the alignment, a public hearing would be held (possibly in the spring), and the work
106 would commence possibly in the fall of '08. MHD asked if the pull-out at the overlook would
107 need to be resurfaced as well. The preference of the JTC was that it should be, if possible.

108 Pamela Haznar mentioned if CMAQ funds could be used, and Mark London replied that with the
109 small amount of funding the Vineyard receives, it is impossible for the JTC to specify a certain part
110 of a project as CMAQ, though he noted that many of our projects would qualify for CMAQ
111 entirely. It was agreed that Karen Pearson, MHD D5, and the JTC should discuss this issue at a
112 regular meeting.

113 Pamela Haznar asked if Oak Bluffs was funding the design of the Lake Avenue project; they are.
114 She also asked about the rise in the project cost estimate to over \$1 million. The JTC was aware
115 of this, but it was decided that the discussion of how to re-allocate projects in the 2008-2011 TIP
116 should occur at a regular meeting, not an emergency meeting.

117 **Dan Greenbaum moved, and it was duly seconded, to approve the following**
118 **prioritized list of projects to for MHD:**

- 119 **1. Seawall rehabilitation.**
- 120 **2. State Road sidewalks (if they cannot be done through a state contract).**
- 121 **3. The Tashmoo overlook, including a public hearing and re-aligning the**
122 **island.**
- 123 **4. Removing the railroad tracks, including public input.**

124 **If the preceding projects cannot proceed, the funds will be transferred to the**
125 **VTA. The motion carried unanimously, and the TIP amendment was released for**
126 **public comment, effective immediately. Unless there is substantive public**
127 **comment requiring further consideration by the JTC, the document is**
128 **recommended for approval by the Committee of Signatories.**

129 Steve Berlucchi noted that the JTC would forward a memo to MHD covering the substance of this
130 meeting, as well and information (measurements, sketches) pertinent to the projects discussed.

131 The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.

132 Following the official meeting, Karen Pearson was called, and the discussion summarized for her
133 benefit.

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138 The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 10:15 a.m.