

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the Meeting held on September 7, 2005, 10:30 a.m. at the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission

### In Attendance

#### Voting Members

Steve Berlucchi, County of Dukes County  
Stuart Fuller, Town of Edgartown  
Al DeVito, Town of West Tisbury  
John Bugbee, Town of Tisbury

Bob Clermont, Citizen  
Mark London, MVC  
Dan Greenbaum, Citizen  
David Whitmon, Citizen

#### Ex-Officio Members

Mary Snyder, Citizen  
Fred Lapiana, Town of Tisbury

#### Observers

Bill Venno, MVC

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Steve Berlucchi, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

### **1. Adoption of the Minutes**

- The minutes of the July 6, 2005 meeting were adopted.
- The Committee reviewed the notes from August 3 when there was no quorum, relevant sections of which have been incorporated into these minutes.

### **2. Quorum**

***Fred Lapiana moved and it was duly seconded that the quorum of the Joint Transportation Committee be modified to be four members including at least three from towns. Approved unanimously.***

### **3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- As voted at the July meeting, since there was no public comment during the 30-day comment period, the revised TIP was adopted. The only change was that requested by MassHighway to program Permanent Lagoon Pond Drawbridge for \$1M, \$3M and \$14M in FFY 08, 09 and 10 respectively.

- The MVC has been working with the towns to apply for PRC approval for their projects. The MVC received completed forms from Edgartown for Main Street Infrastructure Preservation Project. The MVC will send the three FFY 07 projects by mid August
- For FFY 08 MVC will work with West Tisbury to apply for PRC approval for the West Tisbury Walkway enhancement project. The William Street Historic District project has a Project ID.
- Members requested that, at the next meeting, the MVC Transportation Planner update the status of project IDs for TIP projects and project flow chart including important submission dates.
- Steve Berlucchi noted that he had a request from the WT Paths Beside the Road committee to investigate a possible 4-foot wide walking path from Alley's Store to the Youth Hostel. He and Srinivas are to meet with the ConCom to explore the idea of a cantilevered walkway over Mill Pond. Steve has not yet provided Srinivas with the technical information he has requested. This item is several years out on the current TIP.

### **3. Road Reclassification**

- Mark London distributed a draft letter to the boards of selectmen informing them of the proposed reclassification of several island roads. Each board of selectmen would have to make a request for the roads in their town.
- Fred Lapiana expressed concern that language stating that the reclassification may result in higher design standards may not be correct and might scare away the selectmen from considering the changes.
- There were conflicting recollections of the State's stance on the issue of design standards being influenced by road classification. Mark will contact Mark Carmichael at MHD for a clarification.
- Al DeVito suggested that the draft letter could use less jargon and more succinctly point out what is being asked of the selectmen. Several committee members proposed to redraft the letter and forward it to Mark before the next JTC meeting.
- Members asked to find out when was road classification last updated.

### **4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

- Bill Venno reported that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee met twice in August at which the WPI students presented partial work. They have since forwarded a draft text report, a summary table of which was distributed to the JTC members. On September 20, the advisory committee will focus on what information has been collected and recommendations from past planning efforts. Bill has distributed copies of the WPI report, the 1993 Great Expectations bicycle plan, and tables of contents from two plans from other communities – Nantucket and Brunswick, Maine. The committee will use a table of contents to help it proceed with development of the new plan.
- The concern was raised that calling paths "multi-user paths" instead of "bike path" might reduce eligibility of state funding.
- The committee should distinguish between physical improvements needing special funding, ongoing maintenance and minor improvements, and other actions such as education.
- The JTC agreed to request the advisory committee to focus on coming up with an alternative, if not a recommendation, for establishing a link between Wind's Up in Tisbury to the hospital and on to the center of Oak Bluffs.

- It was mentioned that there had been a proposal for a bike path along State Road, but at the last minute, as a result of citizens concern for the trees and the fact that it wouldn't extend to West Tisbury, the project didn't move ahead.
- It was mentioned that the County Road bike path needs real barriers so that motorists can't use it as a turning or passing lane.

## **5. Lagoon Pond Drawbridge**

- Fred Lapiana reported that the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Boards of Selectmen have signed the contract and the contractor has begun work on evaluating the existing bridge.
- A public planning session was co-hosted with Tisbury waterworks Inc on August 25 to seek input from the public on the design of the permanent bridge.
- Dan Greenbaum said he again wanted to stress the impact the bridge openings and closings have upon vehicular traffic at Five Corners. When the bridge is lowered, there is a slug of congested traffic that takes some time to clear Five Corners. He expects this to only worsen. As the long-range transportation planning body, he thinks the JTC should be looking at options that do not entail the periodic closing of vehicular traffic.

## **6. Sub-Committees**

**6.1 Bus Stops:** It was mentioned that the bus stops at the SSA ferry need better signage and may be barriers.

## **7. Other Issues**

**7.1 Transportation Forum** - Mark London reported that the MVC forum on traffic: Gridlock in Paradise was a success and is telecast frequently on MVTV.

**7.2 VH SSA Terminal:** The concern of cars stopping in the 'buses only' area at the end of Water Street to drop off/pick up passengers was brought up. It seems that the narrowness of the two circular lanes will not accommodate any physical barriers. He suggested that a police officer is needed for this area.

**7.3 Sengekontacket Pond Inlet Bridges:** Steve Berlucchi shared drawings endorsed by MHD to use steel-backed timber guardrails instead of metal ones. Mark suggested, once these have been installed and if they are as suitable as they seem, that the Joint Transportation Committee adopt the this design for all MassHighway-funded projects, and also recommend the design as a model for towns consideration on town projects.

**7.4 Speed Limits:** West Tisbury has asked Steve Berlucchi for a map or list of roads with officially posted speed limits. The JTC asked him to obtain this for all Island towns.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.20 pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5 at 9.00 am at the MVC offices.