

# 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 March 21, 2007 at the offices of the Martha's Vineyard Commission**

### **In Attendance**

#### Voting Members

Steve Berlucchi, County of Dukes County

Deborah Cini, Town of West Tisbury

Stuart Fuller, Town of Edgartown

John Bugbee, 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

Karen Pearson, EOT (via phone)

#### Others

Art Flathers, Tisbury

Jim Miller, MVC

Steve Berlucchi, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

### **1. Minutes**

- The minutes of the January 24, 2007 were corrected and adopted.

### **2. RTP**

Regarding the RTP draft of March 19, 2007:

- Jim Miller presented the changes that have been made since the draft for public comment. Specifically:
  - improved maps,
  - a new section (3.5) on transportation demand,
  - reworded objectives,
  - info on the *Island Home*,
  - additional detail on seven critical intersections and corridors,
  - expanded safety information (section 12; it was noted by Art Flathers that the MHD guidance for this section ignored certain modes; Karen Pearson clarified that the RTP is a requirement only of the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations, not of the other federal agencies that govern those modes),
  - new required sections in the environment section, including environmental mitigation, stakeholder consultations, and environmental justice,
  - changes to the section on projects, noting that the numbers in Table 25 are very approximate (it was agreed to add a note to the Table to that effect).
- It was noted, and agreed, that Deborah Cini be added to the JTC list.
- It was also noted, and agreed, that a paragraph on the comments received by the public should be added to the RTP.
- Other minor changes to the text were agreed to.
- Art Flathers presented his objection to the removal, at the meeting on 1/24, of the bullet that mentioned excursion fares and their effect on Island businesses.
  - Stuart Fuller detailed his reasoning for suggesting the text in question be struck,

pointing out that residents rely on the excursion fares for medical trips and other necessary travel.

- Bridget Tobin clarified that the excursion fare structure is determined by the SSA Board, which has a Vineyard representative.
  - Mark London explained that the text was removed because the JTC didn't feel that excursion fares should be singled out among the many factors affecting Island businesses and prices.
  - Art Flathers reiterated his concern over the issue, stating that Nantucket has 70% more retail spending per capita than MV, and that the fare structure to Nantucket favors trucking while on MV it is penalized. He strongly believes the excursion fares are an incentive to shop off-Island, regardless of the relative cost of shipping.
  - Angela Grant suggested that the greater distance to Nantucket, among other factors, may explain that difference. Many members agreed that being closer to the mainland was the major factor in shopping off-island.
  - Deborah Cini mentioned that Nantucket discourages car travel, and mentioned that Martha's Vineyard had more needy residents who depend on the excursion fares to go off-Island for certain goods. Many members agreed that they shop off-Island for certain goods.
  - Angela Grant suggested the following wording be included to replace the removed language: "A concern has been raised that excursion fares may have an impact on local retail businesses." Art Flathers agreed, and the text was approved.
- ***Dan Greenbaum moved and it was duly seconded (Deborah Cini) that the JTC approve the amended RTP (subject to changes required by MassHighway). The motion passed unanimously.***

### **3. SAFETEA-LU-compliant Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

- Jim Miller outlined the requirements of SAFETEA-LU for the Public Participation Plan, and requested permission to seek public input.
- Karen Pearson elaborated on the requirements, and suggested some strategies.
- It was agreed that the next JTC meeting would double as a public forum on the PPP.

### **4. Other**

- Steve Berlucci noted that Greenman-Pederson had requested supporting data for the Lake Avenue project. Jim Miller noted that previous traffic counts been delivered.
- Steve Berlucci also announced that as of 3/1, the designer for the temporary drawbridge did not have a signed contract. Several JTC members expressed concern over the timing of the project. Karen Pearson said she would look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

The next JTC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will double as a public forum on the PPP. Lunch will be provided.