



Cape Cod Bridges Program

Bourne, Massachusetts

Appendix 4.4 Maritime Transportation, Traffic, and Safety

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
MassDOT	Massachusetts Department of Transportation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard

1 Introduction

The Maritime Transportation, Traffic, and Safety Appendix includes agency coordination and determinations in support of the [Final](#) Environmental Impact Statement ([FEIS](#)) for the Cape Cod Bridges Program (the Program), in accordance with the following federal statutes, regulations, and guidance:

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, 42 United States Code (USC) 4321 et seq.
- *Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decisionmaking and One Federal Decision*, 23 USC 139.
- Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) regulations implementing NEPA, *Environmental Impact and Related Procedures* (23 CFR 771), and corresponding guidance, Technical Advisory (T 6640.8A): *Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents* (October 30, 1987).

2 USACE Coordination for Section 408 Authorization

On March 21, 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) participated in a meeting to initiate discussions on the Section 4(f) and Section 408 authorizations required for the Program. In a follow-up meeting on May 23, 2024, USACE determined that the March 21, 2024, meeting constituted the formal initiation of the Section 408 process, in accordance with Engineer Circular 1165-2-220, *Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 USC 408*, 30 September 2018.

On August 5, 2024, USACE requested concurrence from FHWA that the primary purposes of the Cape Cod Canal navigable waterway and Canal Service Roads are for navigation and navigation support; therefore, these resources are regulated under Section 408. Additionally, USACE determined that the Cape Cod Canal Federal Navigation Project is a public multiple-use land holding under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 4(f)), with certain areas designated primarily for recreation and thereby subject to Section 4(f). On August 22, 2024, FHWA formally concurred with the findings submitted by USACE.

On October 2, 2024, USACE determined that a Safety Assurance Review is not required for bridge construction. On February 5, 2026, USACE approved MassDOT's design of the riprap pier protection system for the bridge sites, including the results of the hydraulics analysis of the riprap design.

Attachment 1 provides documentation of these initial determinations from USACE.

On March 19, 2026, MassDOT submitted a Section 408 Permission Request to USACE for the Sagamore Bridge Project, Phase 1 of the Program. On April 10, 2026, USACE acknowledged receipt of the Request and provided its initial review. Coordination with USACE is ongoing.

3 USCG Coordination for Bridge Permit

On March 11, 2025, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) provided a Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination for the Cape Cod Bridges Program, in accordance with COMDTPUB P16591.3E, USCG Bridge Permit Application Guide, March 2025. The Preliminary Navigation Clearance Determination, issued to inform project alternatives in the NEPA document, is valid for three years. [On November 25, 2025, USCG informed MassDOT that a Navigation Impact Report is not required to be included in its bridge permit applications.](#) **Attachment 2** provides USCG's [initial](#) determinations.

[On February 13, 2026, MassDOT submitted an application to USCG for the Sagamore Bridge Project, Phase 1 of the Program. On February 17, 2026, USCG acknowledged receipt of the application and initiated its review. Coordination with USCG is ongoing.](#)

4 USACE and USCG Joint Public Notice

[On May 6, 2025, USACE and USCG issued a joint public notice to announce a 30-day comment period to solicit comments from the public, government, and marine community on the proposed project and MassDOT's applications to USACE for a Section 408 permission and a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and to USCG for a Bridge Permit. Attachment 3 provides the public notice.](#)