

**Cape Cod Bridges Program
Advisory Group Meeting
March 13, 2025, 3-5 PM
Mass Maritime Academy
20 Tower Lane, Buzzards Bay, MA, 02532**

Meeting Summary

The fifth meeting of the Cape Cod Bridges Program Advisory Group took place on March 13, 2025, at the Mass Maritime Academy. At this meeting, the Program Team provided a brief presentation followed by a discussion. Topics included a Program update, Right of Way impacts, interchange alternatives, and sub-surface investigations. Attendees included the Program Team, elected and appointed officials from the local, state, and federal levels, community organization leaders, and members of the public.

Please note the information contained herein serves as meeting notes and not an exact transcript.

Meeting Notes

1. Program Team Presentation
 - Project updates were given by Luisa Paiewonsky (MassDOT), Dave Anderson (HNTB), Fred Moseley (Stantec), and James Barnack (HNTB).
2. Discussion and Comments
 - Senator Dylan Fernandes: Question if the Right of Way notices that were sent out were the first notifications.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer of yes, these were first notices.
 - Senator Dylan Fernandes: Comment that draft project plans showing some types of impacts have been publicized already. Therefore, it could be fair to say there was some negligence by those who sold property or helped facilitate sales.
 - Senator Dylan Fernandes: Question if homeowners will be compensated for borings or for removal of trees.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer that there is a statute that dictates property owners must receive advanced notice and compensation for damage to their property.
 - Senator Dylan Fernandes: Question if this same statute that falls with eminent domain.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer of no, these are two separates' statutes as borings do not require a taking of property.
 - Senator Dylan Fernandes: Question regarding compensation for tree removal.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer that this is an entirely different process than eminent domain. MassDOT will have to determine how it will compensate. Usually, contractors repair any damage themselves.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Comment that MassDOT has held many public meetings over the years, but this was the first official

Right of Way notification. MassDOT recognizes there will need to be more communication to homeowners and the broader public to understand the impacts.

- Peter Meier, Town of Bourne: Question if anything shaded in purple will be a Right of Way taking.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer of no, it doesn't mean it will be a Right of Way taking.
- Peter Meier, Town of Bourne: Comment that there is a lot of historical significance in this area. Impacted homeowners have contributed a lot to this community and given back over the years. This is an emotional process, and he has a personal family connection to past Right of Way Takings. Encourages compassion and understanding.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Comment that MassDOT recognizes the families that live there. The more communication the better, and MassDOT will mitigate to the extent possible.
- Advisory Group Member: Question if there is an estimate of how many properties will be acquired.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer of through the early acquisition process, there will be 15 properties impacted including 12 residential and 3 commercial properties.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Note that some will be partial and some temporary.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question about the progress of the DEIS.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that the DEIS has hit an internal milestone.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question if MassDOT has received the federal grants.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that MassDOT executed a funding agreement with federal government and has received a portion of that funding for pre-NEPA activities.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question regarding Right of Way, and if compensation is based on future or current conditions.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer of compensation is based on current conditions and market valuations. There will be two licensed appraisals, and once that number is in place, if it is over \$300,000 there is another step that Massachusetts takes. The Real Estate Appraisal Review Board reviews the final number and must approve it.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that this is a very regulated process.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of will compensation be provided before anyone needs to leave their home.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer that before impacted homeowners leave their property, they will be compensated.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of what information is available regarding the Bourne Bridge MPDG funding denial.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that the volume of applications was the primary reason. USDOT had

questions about the balance of the funds, but they led with the number of applications.

- Representative David Vieira: Question of whether USDOT was concerned with the ability to provide a state funding match.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that USDOT was not focused on state match but rather the cost of the entire program and availability of full funding.
- Marie Oliva, Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce: Question if USACE will be providing funding for the Bourne Bridge.
 - Craig Martin, USACE: Answer of yes.
- Marie Oliva, Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce: Question about traffic delays related to borings during the summer months.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that borings will only have low impacts. There will be borings along state highways in summer months.
- Marlene McCollum, Town of Bourne: Question of what a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) is and how does the draft process work.
 - Dave Anderson, HNTB: Answer that a draft RFP is developed before a final RFP is released for bids. This process is used for larger projects to gather initial feedback. It provides information to potential bidders and MassDOT.
- Marlene McCollum, Town of Bourne: Question of whether changes can be made after the draft RFP that are incorporated into the final RFP.
 - Dave Anderson, HNTB: Answer of yes, feedback is incorporated. Even after the final is published, bidders may be submitting ideas for saving costs and time.
- Marlene McCollum, Town of Bourne: Question of when MassDOT will give design control over to the contractor.
 - Dave Anderson, HNTB: Answer that giving over control is an overstatement. MassDOT is always providing oversight and reviewing designs with 75% and 100% design submittals.
- Bourne Commission on Disabilities: Question of whether a pathway is for vehicles or pedestrians.
 - Dave Anderson, HNTB: That is a shared use path for bicycle and pedestrians.
- Brandon Esip, Bourne Police Chief: Question of when major construction will occur.
 - Dave Anderson, HNTB: Answer that the current schedule shows a Notice to Proceed (NTP) issued in December 2027.
- Brandon Esip, Bourne Police Chief: Question of what level of effort will be needed from police if a property owner refuses access for borings.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that MassDOT will work to find an easy resolution.
- Steve Tupper: Question of is the summer Public Meeting the next opportunity for public engagement.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that there will be a Section 4(f) meeting sometime in the Spring.

MassDOT is also available to meet with organizations and leaders formally and informally.

- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question if MassDOT would meet with homeowners impacted by the Right of Way process.
 - John DeLeire, MassDOT: Answer that this is a process that is highly regulated by FHWA meaning MassDOT needed permission to start the early acquisition process and contact the 15 property owners.
 - Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director, Megaprojects Delivery, MassDOT: Answer that we would welcome the opportunity to talk with impacted homeowners.
- Marlene McCollum, Town of Bourne: Question of what does Section 4(f) mean.
 - Mark Kolonoski, HNTB: Answer that Section 4(f) refers to protecting recreational resources, refuges, and historical areas. The Program has been coordinating with the Bourne Recreational Authority and the Army Corps to identify mitigation and betterments. The team will be meeting with the public and presenting the process.
- Marie Oliva, Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber of Commerce: Question if the first exit going over the bridge going north will be relocated.
 - Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that it will be relocated.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question of how big rotaries will be.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that they will be about 120-feet in diameter.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question of what year was this infrastructure designed to accommodate.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that the Program is designing for future years. Everything is based on 20 years out, which is a standard projection.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question if the Advisory Group can see the full maps presented.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that these maps are available on the Program website.
- Representative Steven Xiarhos: Question if these slides are available to the public.
 - i. Mark Kolonoski and Erica Blonde, HNTB: Answer of yes, they all get posted online once they are made accessible.
- Brandon Esip, Bourne Police Chief: Question regarding specific design of a roadway.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that that there will be a lane going into the roundabout and another lane for traffic continuing onto State Road.
- Advisory Group Member: What is the timeframe for roadway improvements.
 - i. John Smith, HNTB: Answer that every traffic move and ramp can stay open during construction, but some won't be in their final stage until after bridge construction.
- Peter Meier, Town of Bourne: Comment regarding Sandwich Road at Upper Cape Regional Technical High School and whether improvements can be made before the full Program.
 - i. Dave Anderson, HNTB: Answer of thank you for your comment.

- Representative David Vieira: Question regarding the Bourne Rotary and whether there will be new curb cut or lights.
 - i. James Barnack: Answer that the property is owned by the Bourne Rotary LLC and crosswalks are operated by push buttons.
- Roger Forget, Superintendent of Upper Cape Tech: Question regarding Upper Cape Regional Technical High School and whether improvements can be made before the full Program.
 - i. Shaun Handy, Town of Bourne: Answer of thank you and MassDOT is not sure at this time.
- David Sampson, Former Superintendent of Upper Cape Tech: Comment that the pedestrian issues at Upper Cape Regional Technical High School are serious.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of when secondary infrastructure projects are designed for.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer that the Program is designing for fall condition, which is representative of the average condition. All designs will be tested for summer conditions as well.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of if the roundabouts are designed to calm traffic.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer of yes, they are intended to facilitate effective traffic flow and increase safety.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of fall in what year.
 - i. Fred Moseley, Stantec: Answer of fall of 2050.
- Representative David Vieira: Question about bike and pedestrian access on the Sagamore side.
 - i. James Barnack, HNTB: Answer that the Program team has reviewed the Sagamore crossing build alternative regarding the bike and pedestrian access.
- Peter Sutton (online): Comment of wanting to see Shared Use Path connections at Sagamore.
 - i. Erica Blonde, HNTB: Answer of thank you.
- Peter Sutton (online): Question of what the grades are for the Shared Use Path going towards the bridges.
 - i. James Barnack, HNTB: Answer that they do not exceed 4.5%.
- John York: Comment that there is a reason the existing sidewalk is on the east side of the bridge, and origins and destinations are dominantly on the east side of the bridge because the village was east of there.
- Representative David Vieira: Question of if it is possible to move the Shared Use Path to the east side, or why it is on the west side.
 - i. James Barnack, HNTB: Answer that reasons for having it on the west side includes opening the Shared Use Path early during construction, and to allow bicycle and pedestrians to travel without crossing Bourne Scenic Highway. On the north side, there are safety concerns, and it would create challenges on the south side.
- Steve Buckley: Comment that there should be discussion on downstream impacts to other parts of the Cape from this Program.

- Gareth Saunders, MassDOT: Suggestion of highlighting bicycle and pedestrian movements at a future meeting.
- David McPherson (online): Comment that he would like to see shared use path connections at Sagamore.
 - i. Erica Blonde, HNTB: Answer of thank you.

Attendees

Program Team

1. Luisa Paiewonsky, MassDOT Project Manager
2. Gareth Saunders, MassDOT Legislative Affairs
3. John DeLeire, MassDOT ROW
4. Fred Moseley, Stantec
5. Dave Anderson, HNTB
6. James Barnack, HNTB
7. John Smith, HNTB
8. Mark Kolonoski, HNTB
9. Patrick Marvin, HNTB
10. Erica Blonde, HNTB
11. Rachel Gies, HNTB

Advisory Group and Members of the Public

1. Jim Anglin, Barnstable County Sherriff's Office
2. Jeanna Azarovitz, Bourne Selectboard
3. Lauren Barker, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
4. Steve Buckley
5. Brandon Esip, Bourne Police Chief
6. Dylan Fernandes, State Senator
7. Melissa Ferretti, Town of Bourne Selectboard
8. Mark Forest, Barnstable County Commissioner
9. Roger Forget, Superintendent of Upper Cape Tech
10. Andrew Gottlieb, Cape Cod Commission
11. Shaun Handy, Town of Bourne
12. Liam Horsman, Office of Senator Ed Markey
13. Craig Martin, USACE
14. Marlene McCollum, Town of Bourne
15. David McPherson
16. Peter Meier, Town of Bourne
17. Katherine Morfill, Office of Senator Ed Markey
18. Andrew Nelson
19. Paul Niedzwiecki, Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
20. Marie Oliva, Cape Cod Region Chamber of Commerce
21. Sarah Peake

22. Chris Polloni, USGS
23. Kerri Quinlan-Zhu, Bourne Public Schools
24. Sean Reardon, State Police
25. Elizabeth Rosario, Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren
26. David Sampson, Former Superintendent of Upper Cape Tech
27. Kristy Senatori, Cape Cod Commission
28. Peter Sutton, MassDOT
29. Steven Tupper, Cape Cod Commission
30. David Vieira, State Representative
31. Steven Xiahros, State Representative
32. John York