

**Cape Cod Bridges Program
Advisory Group Meeting #3
April 09, 2024, 3-5 PM
Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School
220 Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA, 02532**

Meeting Summary

The third meeting of the Cape Cod Bridges Program Advisory Group took place on April 9, 2024, at the Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School. At this meeting, the Program Team provided a brief presentation and engaged Advisory Group members in a discussion. Topics include a funding update, NEPA update, overview of assessment of interchange options, schedule, and a bridge update. Attendees included the Program Team, elected, and appointed officials from local, state, and federal levels and their representatives, 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
 - Program updates were given by Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT), Dave Anderson (HNTB), Mark Kolonoski (HNTB), and John Smith (HNTB).
2. Discussion and Comments
 - Office of Representative Fernandez: A question about the congestion of the bridges, clarification if congestion is caused by bridge width and cars are slowing down to go over the bridge at a slower speed. Further question about efforts to reduce congestion and design factors.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Response that the purpose and need statement determines the scoping and need and improving the geometry is a part of that. With the cross section, we are adding auxiliary lanes which facilitate weaving movements and get people out of the through travel lanes allowing for through traffic to pass more easily. The lane widths will be improved, 12' versus 10'. The grades currently are steep and will be flattened with the new design.
 - Susan Moran (State Senator): Comment about planning and publicly messaging that the improved travel/congestion issues does not mean that more people are coming, but just that travel is improved.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Response that the team is in agreement.
 - Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Several questions about alignment and both bridges' preferred inboard options as well as potential property impacts, construction sequencing, how traffic will be transferred from the old bridge, and future uses of the existing bridge layout.

- Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that we don't have the ability to move forward with acquiring property yet because we have to follow NEPA. Team is trying to do this between the completion of the DEIS and EIS process, and has tried to get approval to move forward early. This is high on priority list.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that if you look at the ENF and Notice of Intent (NOI), it covers the reasoning behind the sequencing. It comes down to traffic and property impacts. Team wants to have two lanes of traffic always going each way. The idea is that we will construct the one furthest away first and move all the traffic to the new bridge, and then construct the new bridge. We looked at nine different options, and it comes down to maintaining traffic and minimizing property impacts. It remains to be seen what will happen to the old alignment and approach.
- Steven Tupper (Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization): A question about funding and the most important pieces of the BIP amendment.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that there are three main subcategories which are ranked. The subcategories are economic analysis (high), technical capabilities (high), and the project readiness, which scored medium. For the project readiness section, the team included information on the financial plan and the environmental risk. We included the MPDG award in our amendment and discussed various other topics. For environmental risk, we started NEPA, publishing the NOI and we came up with ways to streamline the NEPA process and explained our process for moving forward. Lastly, innovation. We have a lot of information on our design build procurement process, in addition to how we streamline environmental permitting.
- Marie Olivia (Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce): Question about the timeframe and when Program Team will hopefully receive the grant.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that team doesn't have specific timelines.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that the best we know is that June would be the latest.
- David Vieira (State Representative): Question on funding and if there is chance in the next round that rating could be elevated to highly recommended if the rules and criteria change.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will not change for the next round of BIP, and for MPDG they raised the bar as to what is needed to become highly recommended.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Question regarding the effects of the recent bridge disasters, and if there has been any change on eligibility in terms of standards of review for Army Corps, for example.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that we know what USDOT looks for in regard to the program, and we provide the data. They have a program called State of Good Repair.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that State of Good Repair is a big component. We did provide a lot of information on predictions about when the bridge may fall into a high-risk category.

- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Request to document emergency vehicle response times as a part of the need to improve travel times.
 - Mark Kolonoski (HNTB): Yes.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Question if there is capacity in the design to think about a potential HOV lane, what could normally be 1.5hr drive could be double in the peak season.
 - Mark Kolonoski (HNTB): Responds that right now, this is not in the design.
 - Susan Moran (State Senator): Responds that if there is a place in the country where there is an opportunity for that, this would be the place.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Comment about the importance of local schools and the uniqueness of having school facilities on each side of the canal.
 - Mark Kolonoski (HNTB): Responds that schools could fit in a subcategory of objectives or become their own line.
- David Vieira (State Representative): Comment about including a socioeconomic objective that says we don't limit the potential of construction of new infrastructure unrelated to the bridge. For example if we moved a rail line, we don't construct something that gets in the way of it. We want to weigh the new infrastructure option.
 - Mark Kolonoski (HNTB): Responds that the team is aware of the projects and improvements being discussed and will take this under consideration.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Question about if the resiliency goal includes infrastructure/utilities?
 - Mark Kolonoski (HNTB): Responds that yes, there are a lot of utilities that will have to be maintained, and this goal can be expanded to include something more specific for maintaining utilities.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Question about budgeting and materials and if there is a maintenance budget included, for example painting.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that the team is spending a lot of time exploring state of the art materials that will require a lot less maintenance. The new bridges will also be wider in order to allow for easier maintenance. They will be maintained by the state and are already being looked at.
- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Question about the summertime exclusion of construction.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that because of the amount of work required, the team is currently planning to have construction through the summer months, which MassDOT doesn't normally do on Cape Cod, but we will work while maintaining all connections. We don't plan to close any roads.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that we are focused on doing this quickly. Time is money. The more opportunities to have the contractor out there, the less we have to factor in inflation.
 - Susan Moran (State Senator): Responds that assumption has been included in the meetings we have been having. To have us all here involved, we would be able to communicate to residents the best information we can provide. We want to thank MassDOT and look forward to using the successful communication tools.

- David McPherson (Bourne Advisory Committee on Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways): Question about shared use pathways and any update on the design.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that the team has been spending time looking at this. We are looking at another open house. At that event, we will look in depth at all 4 touchdown points. We have honed in looking at designs, and we aren't showing these as being complete, but it is something for people to react to and provide feedback on. We try to balance grades and other concern topics for example.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Comment about scheduling and climate change issues. This is an opportunity to collaborate on climate change goals. The Cape has initiatives happening now including car charging for example.
- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Question about Notice to Proceed (NTP) on the schedule.
 - Dave Anderson (HNTB): Responds that timing would include a one-year difference in procurement. For example, if we granted NTP in 2026 for Sagamore, we would aim for the Bourne to grant NTP one year later.
- Andrew Gottlieb (Association to Preserve Cape Cod): Question about construction and when each milestone would take place.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that the team is refining schedules. 2031 is thought to be when traffic would move from the existing bridge onto the new bridge first span over a year long period. Then demolish the old bridge, then another two years to complete the second.
- Office of Representative Keating: A question about material and equipment in the canal.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Yes, we are staying out of the canal, but it is better for environmental, etc. There will be machines etc. along the canal shoreline.
- Marie Olivia (Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce): Question on the type of material the bridge will be made of that doesn't require regular painting.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that paint systems have evolved since the bridges were built. The material of the bridge will be steel, high strength, and there are methods team is exploring - a three-coat painting, a zinc coating. This is still under discussion, but there are options. Painting will only need to occur every 30-40 years.
- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Question about if the shared-use path would be on the first span
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that on the Sagamore Bridge, the shared-use path will be on the first bridge but may not be open exactly at the time when the bridge opens to traffic. On the Bourne Bridge, the shared-use path will be on the second bridge. When we do open the first bridge, there will be a sidewalk, but it won't be a full shared-use path. It is a temporary condition.
- David McPherson (Bourne Advisory Committee on Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways): Question about the shared-use path for Bourne Bridge and when would it be open.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that it would be in the early 2030s.
- Peter Meier (Bourne Selectboard): Question about if the slides will be available soon.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that yes that's the intent.

- Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that yes as soon as it is accessible. We would like everyone to review the goals and objectives and provide feedback.
- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Question about scheduling and whether the term substantial completion is when demolition will take place.
 - John Smith (HNTB): Responds that no, demolition is in the middle of the project. We build the first bridge, demolition the existing bridge, then build the second bridge.
- Susan Moran (State Senator): Question about reason behind the timing of demolition.
 - John Smith (HNTB): With the size of cranes and equipment, we will build the farthest away from the existing bridge so we can build without impacting traffic.
- Dylan Fernandes (State Representative): Question about scheduling, if these projects go a year apart is there a possibility that we would have lose progress and time given worked and current supply shortages.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that it is a risk we identify in the risk register, and will take this back to MassDOT leadership.
- Marlene McCollem (Bourne Town Administrator): Question about the timing and place of the open house.
 - Bryan Cordeiro (MassDOT): Responds that it is at the Bourne Veteran's Memorial Community Center on May 13th from 12-3 PM and 5-8 PM.

Attendees

Program Team Attendees:

Entity	Contact Name
MassDOT	Bryan J. Cordeiro
MassDOT	Gareth Saunders
MassDOT	Shaun Handy
USACE	Craig Martin
HNTB	Dave Anderson
HNTB	Mark Kolonoski
HNTB	John Smith
HNTB	Erica Blonde
HNTB	Patrick Marvin
HNTB	Emily Wood
Stantec	Kevin Walsh
Stantec	Jill McLaughlin

Attendees:

Entity	Contact Name
Association to Preserve Cape Cod	Andrew Gottlieb
Bourne Advisory Committee on Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways	David McPherson
Bourne Disability Commission	Marc Brunco (Virtual)
Bourne Recreation Authority	Barry Johnson
Bourne Selectboard	Peter Meier
Bourne Selectboard	Anne-Marie Siroonian
Bourne Town Administrator	Marlene McCollem
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce	Marie Oliva
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce	Paul Niedzwiecki
Cape Cod Commission	Kristy Senatori
Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization	Steven Tupper
Cape Cod RTA	Tom Cahir
Cape Cod Times	Walker Armstrong
Cape News	Calli Remillard
Massachusetts State Police	Sean Reardon
Member of the Public	John York
Office of State Delegation	Kaylea Moore
Office of State Delegation	Michael Holcomb
Office of State Representative of David Vieira	David Vieira
Office of State Representative of David Vieira	Amanda Braga-Tipton
Office of State Representative of Dylan Fernandes	Dylan Fernandes
Office of State Representative of Steven Xiarhos	Steven Xiarhos
Office of US Congressman Bill Keating	Michael Jackman
Office of US Senator Edward Markey	Liam Horsman (Virtual)
Office of US Senator Edward Markey	Jim Cantwell (Virtual)
Office of US Senator Edward Markey	Ben Thomas (Virtual)
Office of US Senator Elizabeth Warren	Tessa Schneider
Office of US Senator Elizabeth Warren	Caleb White
State Senator Julian Cyr	Julian Cyr (Virtual)
State Senator Susan Moran	Senator Susan Moran
Upper Cape Technical School	Roger Forget
Member of the Public	Mark Emmons (Virtual)

Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	James Anglin (Virtual)
Board of the Friends of the Bourne Rail Trail President	Ken Cheitlin (Virtual)