

Martha's Vineyard Joint Transportation Committee

c/o Martha's Vineyard Commission, Box 1447, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

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October 21, 2015

Mr. David Mohler, Executive Director
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Office of Transportation Planning
Ten Park Plaza, Room 4150
Boston, MA 02116-3969

Regards: Statewide 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Mohler

The Martha's Vineyard Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) members voted to send this letter as part of local input in the statewide 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The JTC reviews and discusses transportation system components and needs on an ongoing basis, in addition to participating in the development of the required certification documents.

All the transportation system components that encompass multimodal movement between the mainland and the island and around the island are critical to the Island's livability and economy. These components include the local transit authority operations, steamship authority and other local ferry and water taxi services, the airport, other port facilities for commercial fishing, barges and recreational watercraft, the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and the roadways.

The transportation system has not grown in keeping with either the year-round population or the visitor numbers, and many Islanders and visitors appreciate that fact and do not want change. Others, however, are calling for improvements to mobility options and frequency. The JTC and MVC staff consider all input and aim to balance community needs and concerns within available resources.

The JTC identifies the following transportation components as priority needs for inclusion in the state CIP:

- Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road improvements including bicycle / pedestrian traffic calming improvements in the area of the High School, YMCA, and MV Community Services
- Connect the down-island shared use path network by filling in the gaps from Tisbury through Oak Bluffs into Edgartown
- Mill Brook Bridge (culvert), State Road, West Tisbury, functionally obsolete (narrow) hazard to multimodal travel – vehicles, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians
- Big Bridge Railing Improvements, Beach Road, Edgartown /Oak Bluffs Town Line

- Improve pedestrian facilities in downtown Vineyard Haven, including Main Street and the Five Corners Intersection
- Upper Main Street, Edgartown improvements
- Edgartown –Vineyard Haven Road at Beach Road and Upper Main Street (Triangle intersection) improvements
- Bus stop improvements and fleet replacement
- Resurface and/or reconstruct the Manuel Correllus State Forest bike paths
- Complete the bike path circumnavigating the State Forest (adding the east and northeast segments)
- Five Corners Intersection
- State Road with Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road and Look Street intersection
- Water Street, Tisbury [Vineyard Haven], pedestrian improvements
- Tisbury Connector Road and SUP, State Road to Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road
- Undergrounding of utilities in downtowns
- Fiber optic infrastructure
- Harbor infrastructure and/or terminal improvements for ferries, water taxis, and commercial and recreational vessels including passenger and pedestrian infrastructure and wayfinding
- Airport infrastructure and operations
- Raising critical regional roadways to mitigate the effects of anticipated sea level rise and shoreline change.
- Regional funds for project designs by approved MassDOT consultants
- Permanent traffic count locations on Martha’s Vineyard
- Increased maintenance of state facilities on Martha’s Vineyard, especially for keeping sand and debris from accumulating on road shoulders, multi-modal paths and sidewalks.

As a smaller region in the state, annual allocations for both Chapter 90 and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) over five years total a very small amount compared to the infrastructure needs and costs. Additional funds would assist in maintaining and improving the transportation infrastructure necessary for the island to retain its role as an asset to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Adam Turner, MVC Executive Director, for the JTC

cc: Dukes County, Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, Gosnold, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury
 Senator Daniel Wolf
 Representative Timothy Madden