

PREFACE

Momentum has been building over the past twenty months to address transportation, growth, development and quality of life issues on Cape Cod and the Islands. Starting with the Cape Cod Transit Summit in February 2000 and the formation of the Cape Cod Transit Task Force, region-wide priorities regarding public transportation on Cape Cod and the Islands, and goals and objectives for guiding short-range planning have been identified. There is consensus that improved public transportation services are needed both *to mitigate seasonal traffic congestion* and *to meet the mobility needs of the year-round transit-dependent population*. However, there is also wide ranging opinion on the characteristics and qualities of an ideal public transportation system for Cape Cod. Translating broad statements of goals and objectives into specific policies, investments, and services is a challenging process that requires an understanding of competing interests and varying points of view, as well as the trade-offs associated with decisions concerning growth, resource protection, and transportation.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center has been working in cooperation with the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, the Cape Cod Commission, and other organizations participating on the Cape Cod Transit Task Force to develop this short-range five-year plan for public transportation to, from, and within Cape Cod and the Islands. The recommendations incorporated in this plan result from an extensive public process that involved approximately 50 public meetings, two large-scale summits, and a summit focused on outer-Cape transportation issues. The findings from this five-year plan are anticipated to be deployed for the existing transportation network, and would also serve as an initial basis for a subsequent, more comprehensive, longer-range (25-year) plan. This five-year planning effort encompasses both operational and initial capital improvements, and builds on current plans and proposals.

The vision this plan sets forth is to provide a comprehensive, accessible, and integrated public transportation system that allows the traveler to say *"I CAN get there from here... WHEN I want to go!"*

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviation

AVL	Automatic Vehicle Location
BCHS	Barnstable County Human Services
CACO	Cape Cod National Seashore
CCCRR	Cape Cod Central Railroad
CCC	Cape Cod Commission
CHAMBER	Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
CCRTA	Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
EOTC	Executive Office of Transportation and Construction
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GATRA	Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicles
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
JPO	Joint Program Office
MBTA	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MHD	Massachusetts Highway Department
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MVC	Martha's Vineyard Commission
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRTA	Nantucket Regional Transit Authority
NPS	National Park Service
P&B	Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company
RDCs	Rail Diesel Cars
RPP	Regional Policy Plan
SSA	Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority
TMA	Transportation Management Association
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
VRTA	Martha's Vineyard Regional Transportation Authority

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