



# BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO and MPO Chair  
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## *WORK PLAN*

### CAPE RAIL STUDY

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

#### Project Identification

Project Number 97864

##### Client

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)

##### Project Supervisors

*Principal:* Marty Milkovits

*Manager:* Ben Dowling

##### Funding Source

MassDOT SPR contract

#### Schedule and Budget

Schedule: 8 months after work commences

Budget: \$65,488

Schedule and budget details are shown in Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively.

#### Background

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) are considering a commuter rail service connection to the Cape Cod region. This service would connect with Phase 1 of the South Coast Rail (SCR) Project, which is an initiative of MassDOT and the MBTA to bring public transportation to the South Coast region. A connection between the Cape region and the SCR Project would increase transit ridership, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support economic development and smart growth. Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) has conducted or participated in several studies of potential railroad passenger service extensions to Cape Cod towns in the recent past. MassDOT has asked CTPS to assist in developing and analyzing up to two alternatives of Cape Rail service.

## Objectives

The objective of this study is to support MassDOT in its effort to plan for the future of commuter rail service to Buzzards Bay. To provide this support, CTPS will work towards the following three objectives:

1. Support up to three stakeholder meetings to identify and report on alternative scenarios.
2. Model and analyze up to two alternative scenarios.
3. Provide data support and analysis to MassDOT and its consultants and partners.

## Work Description

The following tasks describe the work that CTPS will perform for this study.

### **Task 1 Coordinate with Project Team and Support Public Meetings**

CTPS will work with the MassDOT project team throughout the study, including participating in up to three stakeholder meetings.

CTPS anticipates an initial public meeting to be held early in the project to define the two alternatives and key metrics and that there will be approximately four months to complete the modeling work following this meeting.

In addition to the public meetings, CTPS will participate in project team meetings and fulfill data requests from the project team when the data are readily available. CTPS will provide a memo summarizing the modeling methodology and results of the analysis that can be incorporated into a project report developed by MassDOT's consultants.

#### *Products of Task 1*

- Coordination and consultation with the project team, review of models, and other assistance, as needed
- Memorandum summarizing the modeling methodology and results of the analysis
- Participation in up to three stakeholder meetings including contributing to and reviewing presentation materials and meeting minutes prepared by MassDOT's consultant

### **Task 2 Review Background Documentation and Visit Site**

CTPS will review previously conducted studies that analyze the extension of commuter rail service to the Cape region. CTPS will review studies that it has conducted and contributed to and studies conducted by the Cape Cod Commission and MassDOT to gain an understanding of project background and context. CTPS will also visit the site of the study area to better understand the roadway and transit operational context of the project.

***Products of Task 2***

Internal review, summary of previous studies, and site visit notes

**Task 3 Assess and Calibrate Available Tools for Project Application**

The study area geography for this project is the meeting point of the Massachusetts South Coast and Cape Cod. CTPS will evaluate the application of the statewide travel demand model, which covers the entire study area geography, and the Federal Transit Administration's STOPS model, which is well suited to evaluating transit service extensions from established transit markets such as the Boston region. Depending on stakeholder recommendations, one of these tools may be more applicable. This task will include the assembly of recent data to evaluate the model performance, the assessment of each tool for application to this project, and the calibration of a model for use in future year build and no-build analysis.

***Product of Task 3***

A fully functioning travel demand model calibrated to the study area

**Task 4 Model Future-Year No-Build**

CTPS will develop and model a no-build scenario for the year 2040. The transportation network used for this scenario will assume the implementation of transportation projects and programs as documented in the Boston MPO's current Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), *Destination 2040*, as well as the canal area improvements that MassDOT has committed to construct and the preferred alternative bridges from the US Army Corps Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Study. The no-build scenario will include South Coast Rail Phase 1. CTPS will also consult the LRTPs of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District and the Cape Cod Commission to ensure the networks used in the model reflect anticipated 2040 conditions in the study area.

***Products of Task 4***

- No-build scenario for the year 2040
- Tabular summaries of transit ridership and roadway conditions, as applicable

**Task 5 Model Two Future-Year Build Scenarios**

CTPS will model up to two build scenarios developed from meetings with stakeholders for the 2040 forecast year. MassDOT or its consultants will provide the service plans to be included in the build scenarios. CTPS will work with MassDOT and its consultants to define the scenarios, including schedule frequency and runtimes, station locations and amenities, parking availability and cost, and fares. Metrics produced by each scenario could include commuter rail ridership by line, station, and mode of access as well as roadway conditions, depending on the modeling approach and stakeholder interest. Initiation of this task is dependent on the stakeholder meeting schedule.

***Products of Task 5***

Tabular summaries of metrics as recommended by public meetings

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**Exhibit 1**  
**ESTIMATED SCHEDULE**  
**Cape Rail Study**

Task	Month							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Coordinate with Project Team and Support Public Meetings								
2. Review Background Documentation and Visit Site								
3. Assess and Calibrate Available Tools for Project Application								
4. Model Future-Year No-Build								
5. Model Two Future-Year Build Scenarios								

**Exhibit 2**  
**ESTIMATED COST**  
**Cape Rail Study**

<b>Direct Salary and Overhead</b>	<b>\$65,088</b>
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Task	Person-Weeks				Direct Salary	Overhea (106%)	Total Cost
	M-1	P-5	P-2	Total			
1. Coordinate with Project Team and Support Public Meetings	2.2	2.2	0.4	4.8	\$8,908	\$9,442	\$18,350
2. Review Background Documentation and Visit Site	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	\$1,414	\$1,499	\$2,913
3. Assess and Calibrate Available Tools for Project Application	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	\$8,063	\$8,547	\$16,611
4. Model Future-Year No-Build	0.5	1.0	1.5	3.0	\$4,589	\$4,865	\$9,454
5. Model Two Future-Year Build Scenarios	1.0	2.0	2.5	5.5	\$8,621	\$9,138	\$17,760
Total	4.9	7.5	6.8	19.2	\$31,596	\$33,492	\$65,088

<b>Other Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$400</b>
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Travel	\$400
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<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$65,488</b>
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**Funding**

MassDOT SPR Contract  
MPO §5303 Planning Contract #XXXXX