



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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December 2, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for December 2 through December 9, 2025

1. The Town Manager in coordination with the Finance Department continues to follow the budget action calendar for the FY 2027 operating and capital budgets. Town Council has tentatively scheduled a budget workshop on January 8, 2026, to discuss fiscal policy and revenue strategy. As a reminder the Town Manager Calendar Year Fee Hearing was held on November 13, 2025. The proposed fees have been taken under advisement for 30 days during which time additional public comments will be accepted for consideration. Deadline for Public Comments is 4:00 PM on Monday, December 15, 2025. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Cape & Islands Bridges Coalition (CIBC) has its next quarterly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The agenda includes welcoming of the newly appointed Undersecretary of Transportation for Massachusetts Jonathan Gulliver as the guest speaker. Undersecretary Gulliver has been a strong supporter of the Cape Cod Bridges Replacement project in his prior role as MassDOT Highways Administrator, and his visit promises to be a great opportunity for dialogue with CIBC members. Additionally, CIBC will receive a quarterly project update from Luisa Paiewonsky, Executive Director of Megaprojects Delivery with MassDOT. The state recently filed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for replacement of the Cape Cod Bridges under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Luisa will share more about this filing and its significance for the overall bridge replacement effort. For those interested, you can visit an [interactive summary site](#) to review the draft EIS and submit comments (or submit comments through the [online public comment form](#)).
3. On November 18, 2025, I reported that the Town had received a copy of a report submitted to Town Council regarding a Save Greater Dowses Beach EMF monitoring project. The report is under review by staff. The report was sent to Vineyard Wind and

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper for review and appropriate action. Additionally, I have sent multiple communications to Secretary Tepper and the Energy Facilities Siting Board regarding the report and prior request for action relevant to the safety and compliance of the Vineyard Wind project as the regulatory oversight falls to the State and Federal government in this matter. I communicated with the Secretary's office earlier today regarding the status of a response to my requests for verification of safety and compliance of the Vineyard Wind Project. We will keep you advised of any additional information resulting from these requests as it becomes available.

4. On December 3, 2025, I sent a letter to Governor Healey expressing our concern regarding the reported absence of funding for the Massachusetts Dredging Program in the FY2027 state budget proposal (attached). We urged the Governor to prioritize funding for the Massachusetts Dredging Program in FY2027.
5. Town Clerk Ann Quirk has announced that the annual mailing containing the Street Listing/Census form for all town residents is scheduled to be mailed out after Christmas.
6. We're following up on the speed limit concern brought forward at the recent Town Council meeting. Council agreed to withdraw the initial request so Town staff could take a more comprehensive, collaborative look at the issue. The Department of Public Works is convening a working group that will include representatives from DPW, the Planning Department, and the Barnstable Police Department. Together, they'll review current speed limits, safety data, and opportunities for improvement townwide. It's important to note that the Town and DPW already manages and participates in a number of road safety programs and grant-funded initiatives—each aimed at making our streets safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. These include:
  - The Complete Streets Program
  - The Local Bottleneck Reduction Program
  - The Safe Streets and Roads for All initiative
  - Regular road safety audits, corridor studies, and pedestrian safety improvement projects...to name a few.

These efforts will help inform our next steps on speed management.

Mass General Law allows municipalities to establish 20 MPH Safety Zones in areas like village centers. This is a tool we can use immediately, and DPW will be expediting the identification and establishment of these zones to enhance safety in our most walkable areas. Our goal is to take a thoughtful, data-driven approach that improves roadway safety across Barnstable while ensuring consistency, clarity, and community benefit.

7. Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager for the Public Works Department, will provide an update on Water Resource Management planning, including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Ms. Collopy will also provide an update on the Town Council's 25MPH Speed Limit Request.
8. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager, will provide an Enforcement Update.