



Town of West Tisbury
Board of Selectmen
West Tisbury, MA 02575

June 22, 2011

Mr. Chris Murphy, Chairman
Martha's Vineyard Commission
PO Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Mr. Murphy,

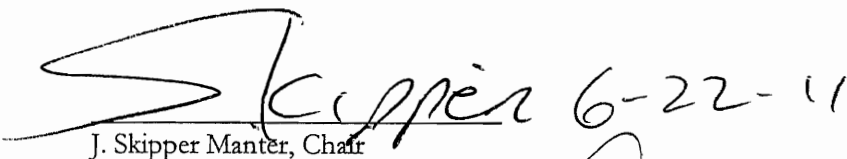
Our reading of the Commission's Standards & Criteria for the review of proposed projects, specifically the Administrative Checklist for Developments of Regional Impact, indicates to us that the proposed traffic circle (by whatever name) at the crossroads of the Vineyard Haven – Edgartown Road with Barnes Road in Oak Bluffs meets the criteria under Section 1.1b and 7.1b of the Checklist for review by the Commission.

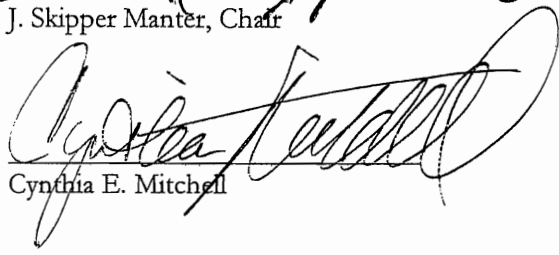
Use of this intersection by many up-Island residents on a daily basis makes any change there a matter of broad concern. Ambulance runs from up-Island to the hospital, and emergency services generally, are affected by the logistics of negotiating that intersection. Changes that encourage faster driving would seem to be counter-intuitive to our Island culture, not to mention the implications for safety. The asymmetrical traffic flow through this intersection, and the relatively short periods, daily and annually, of congestion at this important road juncture both raise questions about the need for changing the intersection so drastically.

Numerous comments, concerns, and questions from West Tisbury residents about this proposed project have reached us, and we are requesting a formal review of it as a DRI.

We trust the Commission will undertake this review quickly.

Sincerely,


J. Skipper Mantel, Chair


Cynthia E. Mitchell

