

# Sagamore Bridge

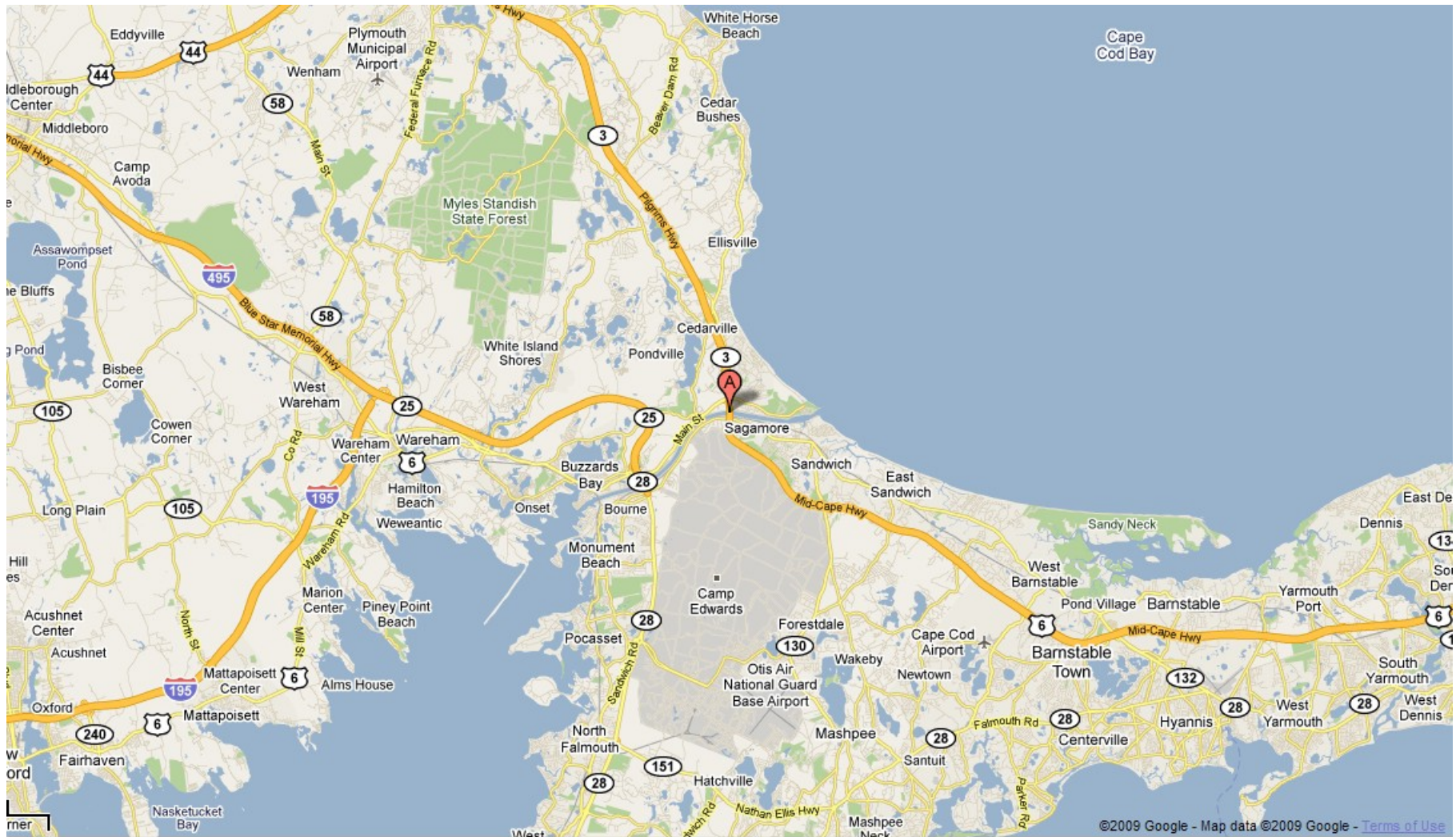


Richard Mitchell

Justin Murphy

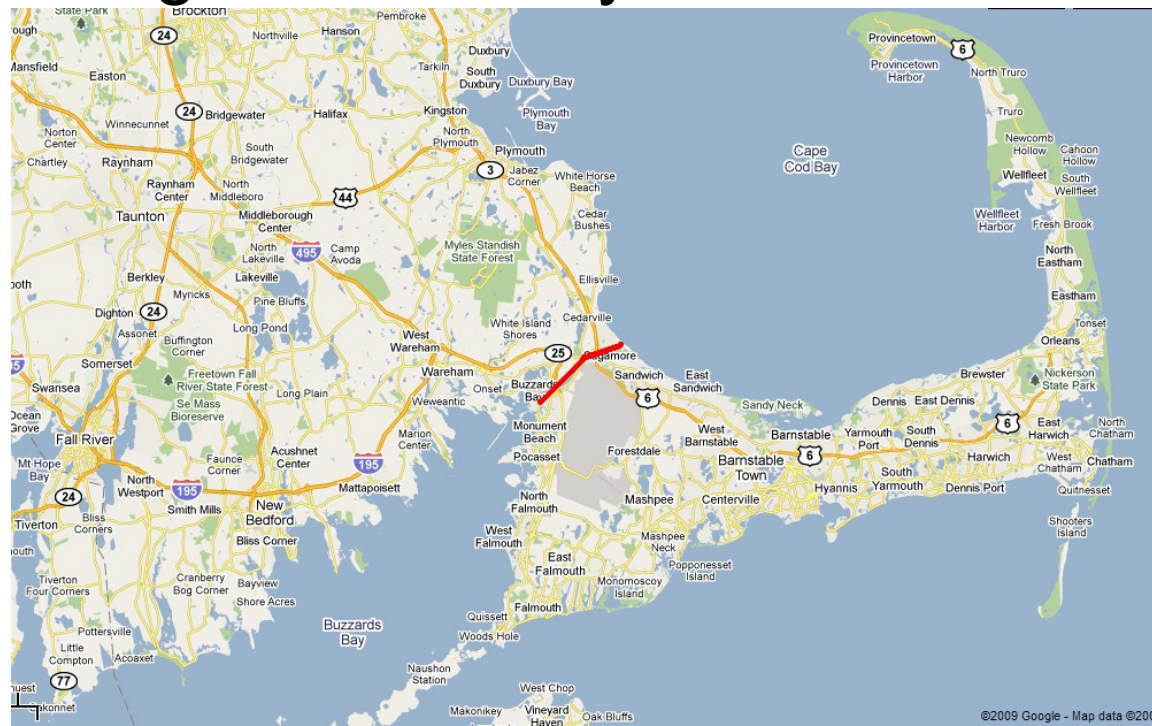
(DJ) Dennis Morin Jr.

# Critical Link in a Fragile Network



# History

- Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century mariners saw a need for a canal through Cape Cod
- Canal constructed in 1914 and financed by August Belmont
- Canal reduced sailing distances by 165 miles



# Need for Infrastructure

- Two cantilever bridges and a railroad bridge were constructed
- Drawbacks:
  - Provided narrow passageways for ships
  - Traffic delays when the bridge was raised





# Canal Transfer of Ownership

- Belmont imposed a toll of \$16 for canal use
- Decline in demand due to dangers of passing under narrow bridges
- Belmont was losing money
- Federal government acquired the canal

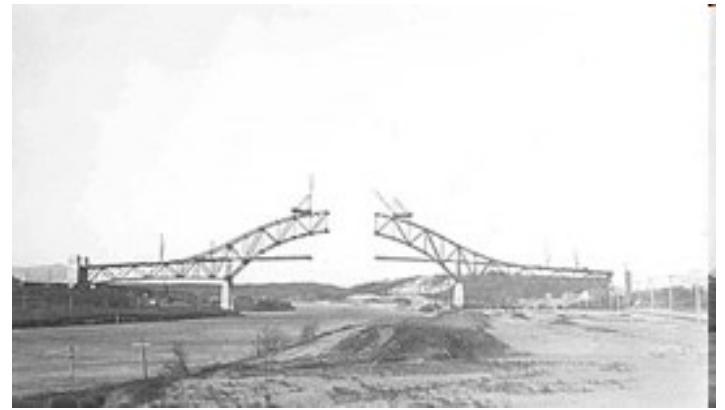


# Army Corps Engineers

- 1928- Army Corps Engineers were assigned to improve the canal
  - Widening and deepening
- 1933- Pres. Roosevelt and the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 provided 4.6 million dollars in federal funding

# Sagamore Bridge Construction 1933-1935

- Steel arch
- Spans 1400 ft
- 135 ft of clearance at peak
- Total cost in 1930's: \$1.4 million
- Employed around 700 workers



# Sagamore Bridge Reconstruction Project

- \$5.5 million (\$3.5 in Stimulus Funding)
- Phase 1
  - Began: September 14, 2009
    - 2-10hour shifts, 7 days a week
  - Reopen: November 23, 2009
- Phase 2
  - Begin: Early Spring
  - End: Late Spring
    - More than likely Late Fall



# Disgruntled Travelers



<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/21116130/detail.html>



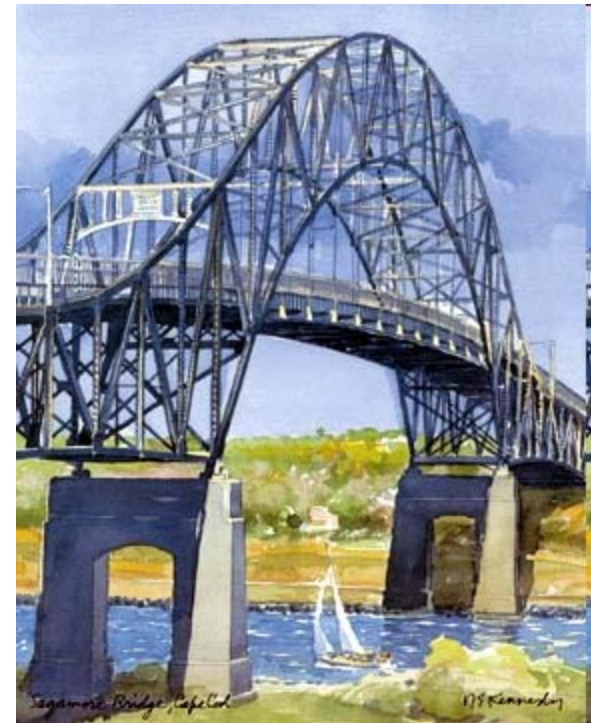
# Tourism

“I am worried about what this will do to weekend tourism on the Cape. Our Fall festivals and other events on Cape Cod rely on people to come over the bridge to attend. Our guest houses and restaurants depend on good Fall business, and I am concerned for them.”

- Senator Robert O'Leary

# Columbus Day Holiday Weekend

- **Onto the Cape:**
  - Friday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m.
  - Sunday, Oct. 11 at 5 a.m.
  
- **Off the Cape:**
  - Sunday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m.
  - Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 10 a.m.





# Potential Negative Consequences of Construction on Sagamore

- Decline in tourism business
- Increase in price of local commodities
- Excess pollution



# Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization: Goals

- Reduce auto dependency
- “Car-free Vacations”
- Meet needs of year-round residents
- Coordinate amongst various providers

# Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization: Trends

- The Cape Cod National Seashore attracts around five millions tourists each year.
- Tourists and commuters going to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard typically pass over the canal.
- Tourists expect to use personal transportation while on the Cape.

# Proposed Alternatives

- Commuter Rail to Boston
- Shuttles to Cape attractions
- Expanded coach service to Boston





# The Bottom Line

- Adding new infrastructure will be expensive.
- Indirect returns seen in economic benefits from tourism.
- Toll policy to make alternative commuting options viable.

*CapeCod*

