

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018
Orono Council Chambers

Members

Name	Representing
Rob Yerxa	Town of Orono
Dana Wardwell	City of Bangor
Frank Higgins	City of Brewer
Jeremy Caron	City of Brewer
Belle Ryder	Town of Orono
Kyle Drexler	Town of Orono
John Theriault	City of Bangor
Jim Chandler	Town of Hampden
Carlos Pena	FHWA
Laurie Linscott	City of Bangor
Linda Johns	City of Brewer
John Rouleau	City of Old Town

Maine DOT

Name	Representing
Commissioner Bernhardt	Maine DOT
Darryl Belz	Maine DOT
John Devin	Maine DOT

Staff

Name	Representing
Rob Kenerson	BACTS
Cindy Meservey	BACTS
Connie Reed	BACTS
Dianne Rice	BACTS

Public

Name	Representing
Erik DaSilva	Bicycle Coalition of Maine

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion	Action
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Minutes	Rob Yerxa called the September 18 meeting of the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee to order at 9:37 a.m. at Orono Council Chambers.	<i>Dana Wardwell made the motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2018 Policy Committee meeting. Frank Higgins seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>
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Commissioner David B. Bernhardt

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Rob Kenerson introduced Commissioner Bernhardt and asked him to give an overview of what is going on at Maine DOT.</p> <p>Maine DOT is working on an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan to make the system safer. The plan aims to improve mobility without adding infrastructure.</p> <p>The State currently has 802 traffic signals. In the past, the signals were installed and left to the municipalities to keep them running. DOT is now taking on a greater roll in working with the towns. A&D Electric is the only company doing signal work in the State. DOT is reaching out to other companies in order to expand the list.</p> <p>Maine DOT is also developing a true Traffic Management Center (TMC). Variable message signs are being installed at each exit on I-95. They will be used to alert traffic of an incident and in inclement weather.</p> <p>The Long Range Plan is currently being developed. The State put out a survey yesterday and have already received 400 to 500 hits. Rob Kenerson told the Committee that an email with the link to the survey is being emailed this afternoon.</p> <p>The State received \$23 million from the Volkswagen settlement. The money is being used to install electric charging stations. Any municipality interested in looking at autonomous vehicles can talk with Maine DOT.</p> <p>Maine DOT has begun working on the new workplan. It may be a little late this year due to the administration changes in January. This year's</p>	

workplan includes bridge replacements and rehabs and safety. It also includes paving up to 1,000 miles per year.

The Municipal Partner Initiative (MPI) will continue. This is a 50/50 split between the State and the municipality. The Business Partner Initiative (BPI) will also continue. This is a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 split between the State, municipality and business.

The funding for MPOs most likely will not change. If the Committee needs something, the Commissioner encouraged them to ask.

The biggest and most controversial project is the I-395 extension. To date, the State has acquired four properties and is currently working on another. The design is in the works now, and another public meeting will be held soon. The Commissioner believes the public will start to see things happening on Route 1A in 2019.

The Commissioner asked the Committee if they had any questions.

John Theriault asked if the Diverging Diamond was still going to happen. The Commissioner told John the project is still in the plan. However, more work needs to be done. The project could begin now, but the bridge would need to be replaced soon after.

Dana Wardwell asked if there were any plans for Route 1A from Holden to Ellsworth. The Commissioner agreed that last year was the worst this area had seen. The signal at the intersection of 46 is what slows the traffic down. Rob Kenerson asked if there was a plan for a rapid bus transit. Erik suggested adding another bus to Ellsworth. The current bus is usually full with Jackson Lab employees from the Bangor area.

The Commissioner told the group he would like to see a Gateway Center in Trenton using a bus to get people on and off the island.

	<p>Rob Kenerson asked if there was any money for mast arms. The Commissioner indicated that there is funding for inspection and installation.</p> <p>Frank Higgins asked about the difference between capital and maintenance. The Commissioner explained that replacement is a capital expense. John Rouleau explained the process that Old Town has been going through since the wind storm of October 2017 blew down the signals in the middle of downtown.</p> <p>Dana pointed out that capital funding comes from BACTS. However, there isn't enough funding, so the BACTS area is replacing only three intersections per year. The Commissioner suggested using a building grant to make sure signal systems are working together.</p> <p>Rob Kenerson told the group that there is AIDS funding available. The State and municipalities can apply. The Penobscot Corridor is a good use for the funding for installing adaptive controllers. The Commissioner is willing to write a letter of recommendation.</p> <p>Jim Chandler thanked the group for support during the process of finding extra funding of 1A in Hampden. Rob thanked the Commissioner for approving the extension.</p> <p>Rob Kenerson spoke about the synergy meeting in Augusta last week. There were 40 people around the table with 3 screens. The State Street project in Bangor is already included in the State projects, so it won't need to be included in the BACTS TIP.</p> <p>The Commissioner announced good news coming from the Federal side. They are putting additional funding into transportation. There is a discretionary grant for \$6.8 million. This could mean another \$10 million for Maine.</p> <p>There are bonds of about \$100 million going in front of voters in November.</p>	
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	The Committee thanked the Commissioner for attending the meeting and bringing them up to speed on what DOT is currently doing.	
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Pavement Asset Management Update

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Rob had been talking with a private company that wanted to sell services to the BACTS area for approximately \$40,000 per year. Carlos recommended using the State for the data. The Pavement Asset Management Committee met with Andy Bickmore of Maine DOT. He showed the group the program and provided maps showing the corridor priorities. Priorities 1 and 2 are done with ARAN van every year. Maine DOT has the software to do the “what if” scenarios for the BACTS roads. There would be no cost for the service using next year’s data.</p>	

Performance Based Planning

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Connie explained to the Committee that the performance based planning and programming rules require that all MPO plans and TIPs include discussion of performance targets, as well as a report on performance and how projects will achieve targets. Any Plans or TIPS developed or modified/amended on or after May 27, 2018 are required to include discussion of PM 1 safety performance measures and targets. The safety targets were discussed at an earlier meeting and the Committee approved adopting the State targets for the BACTS area. Last summer, the Committee adopted Transit State of Good Repair (SGR) targets. In addition to developing annual SGR targets, transit agencies are required to develop and submit their Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plans on or before October 1, 2018 and MPOs are required to include discussion of transit asset and state of good repair performance measures and targets, as well as a performance report in all Plans and TIPs must discuss how projects will meet those targets for all Plans and Programs adopted or modified on or</p>	<p><i>Frank Higgins made the motion to adopt the State developed Performance Management</i></p>

	<p>after October 1. The next two performance measurements are Bridge and Pavement (PM2) and System Performance (PM3), which need to be developed and adopted by MPOs on or before November 16, 2018. These performance measures are required to be included in Plans and TIPs developed or modified on or after May 20, 2019. The Committee was provided with documentation showing the performance targets set by MaineDOT.</p> <p>The question was asked on what the penalties would be if BACTS failed to meet the targets. Rob explained that there is no penalty for not meeting the targets, we just need to give an explanation on why we were not able to. He added that the process is already being done the right way. We just need to document going forward.</p> <p>As with the PM1 Safety Performance Measures, MPOs have the option to develop and adopt their own specific performance targets for PM2 and PM3, or may choose to or adopt and support the performance targets developed by the State.</p>	<p><i>Targets for Bridge and Pavement and System Performance. Dana seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i></p>
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Transit Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
	Laurie Linscott reported to the Committee that the Transit Asset Management Plan will be finalized this week and submitted next week.	

Technical Issues

Topic	Discussion	Action
Construction Updates	<p>Orono</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The round about is on schedule. Surface paving will be done at night this week. <p>Bangor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maine Avenue is going slowly. It looks good. Downtown water on Union and Hammond will be finished by the end of November. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was pedestrian fatality on outer Hammond Street near Leadbetters. That makes four pedestrian accidents in that area over the past five years. John has talked with Bruce and John. Flashing signs were purchased and will be installed this week with overhead lighting. • Finson Road sidewalks are done. • Bangor is reconfiguring the intersection at Harlow/Exchange/ and State Streets to shorten the walking space. <p>Brewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is being done on the walking trail. The project is two weeks behind due to the subs. • The City has an MPI for Eastern Avenue for next year. <p>Hampden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 202 has been milled but not paved yet. • Hampden is holding a series of public meetings to discuss how the center of Hampden should look. 	
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MDOT Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>I-95 in the BACTS region will be treated over the next couple years.</p> <p>The Hampden modification is completed. The contract should be sent out soon.</p>	

Other Business

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>There is a BACTS Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Plan public meeting today at 4:00 p.m. at the Cross Insurance Center. For those who cannot attend in person, MaineDOT has graciously offered to assist BACTS with streaming the meeting using Adobe Connect so that individuals may attend remotely.</p> <p>Rob is looking through the LPA contract and will send John Rouleau a copy.</p>	

	<p>There is a Business to Business challenge from GoMaine during the month of October. BACTS has registered for the event. GoMaine will do a lunch and learn on the event for any business requesting one.</p> <p>Traffic counts are being done. Dianne is using the Black Cats. Charging has been a challenge as there are no backup batteries. Construction in Bangor has made the process a challenge.</p>	
Topic	Discussion	Action
Adjournment		<i>The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.</i>