

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 15, 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
John Rouleau	City of Old Town
John Theriault	City of Bangor
Angus Jennings	Town of Hampden
Sean Currier	Town of Hampden
Laurie Linscott	City of Bangor
David Pardilla	Penobscot Nation

Maine DOT

Name	Representing
Patrick Adams	Maine DOT
John Devin	Maine DOT
Randall Barrows	Maine DOT
Steve Bodge	Maine DOT
Darryl Belz	Maine DOT

Staff

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	Rob Yerxa called the May 15 meeting of the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee to order at 9:30 a.m. at Orono Council Chambers.	<i>Frank Higgins made the motion to accept the minutes of April 24, 2018 Policy Committee meeting.</i>

		<i>Sean Currier seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>
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Public Participation Plan

Topic	Discussion	Action
	The Public Participation Plan is out for public comment until May 18. No comments have been received to date. The changes made to the Plan reflect language required by the FAST Act for implementing performance-based planning and programming requirements on or before May 27, 2018. The draft is on the website for public review and comment. The Feds and State are requesting final adopted Plans by May 27. Rob is looking for authorization from the Committee to approve and adopt the Plan, barring submittal any negative public comments through May 18.	<i>Belle Ryder made the motion to authorize adopting the Public Participation Plan as final, barring the receipt of any negative public comments. Frank Higgins seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>

TIP Amendments

Topic	Discussion	Action
	Maine DOT sent two TIP Amendments for Committee approval to add two projects to the BACTS TIP. Both projects are railroad crossings, one in Bangor and one in Hermon. These are DOT projects that need to be included in the BACTS TIP because they are within the BACTS boundary. Both have been posted for public comments with no comments received.	<i>Frank Higgins made the motion to approve both Amendments, WIN 23863.00 and WIN 21767.1, in the BACTS TIP. Belle Ryder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>

Metropolitan Plan Agreement

Topic	Discussion	Action
	The Metropolitan Planning Agreement is a three-party agreement between the State, the Transit Provider and the MPO outlining mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process and sharing of data for performance-based measurement, planning and programming. The FAST Act requires these agreements to be in place on or before May 27, 2018. Connie indicated that the draft document provided to the Committee had one change which was requested by the Bangor	<i>Belle Ryder made a motion to approve the Metropolitan Plan Agreement. Sean Currier seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>

	<p>Assistant City Solicitor. The Term section was edited to state the agreement “...remain in effect, until June 30, 2019, unless it is superseded...” Bangor City Council authorized the City Manager to execute the Agreement at the May 14 City Council meeting, Rob Kenerson is asking the Policy Committee to authorize execution today and the Agreement will be forwarded to Maine DOT via personal delivery by Darryl Belz for the MaineDOT Director of Planning to sign. The Agreement will be reviewed and likely amended within the next year to incorporate more specific requirements as MaineDOT determines what performance data will be uniformly collected and tracked across the state and by specific region.</p>	
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Hampden 1A Project Update

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Steve Bodge told the Committee that the Hampden 1A project is on schedule for bidding in February 2019. An increase in costs has change the estimate from \$4.86 million to \$5.86 million. The tariff on steel has caused an increase, as well as the cost of pavement and fewer earthwork contractors available. This project has been combined with the bridge and utility projects. The Town of Hampden has sewer projects coinciding with this project as well.</p> <p>The project covers 1.73 miles and has a 20 year design life. There will be a sidewalk on one side with curb up and down the whole project. This will upgrade the entire corridor.</p> <p>Rob Kenerson pointed out that the current three-party agreement states that the town will be responsible for any increases in cost. Angus told the Committee that the town does not have resources to cover the increase.</p> <p>After much discussion, the Committee requested additional information be obtained to consider the feasibility of three different options for funding the project cost increase:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1/3 MaineDOT; 1/3 BACTS; 1/3 Town of Hampden 	

2. 50/50 between BACTS and Hampden
3. BACTS use funds in the holding WIN and/or extend the annual \$621,000 payment currently being made to fund this project, one more year through 2023.

The Committee also asked for more information about the feasibility of reducing the scope of the project to remove the portion that goes from the bridge to Route 9, and the resulting potential cost savings.

Rob Kenerson mentioned that the notice of funding opportunity for the BUILD Grants (previously known as TIGER) had been released and asked if MaineDOT would be willing to submit a grant application for this project.

Steve Bodge will determine the feasibility and potential cost savings of reducing the scope of the project as discussed. Darryl Belz will investigate MaineDOT's ability to provide 1/3 of the required additional funds; MaineDOT's willingness to allow BACTS to extend payments one more year; and the feasibility of MaineDOT submitting a BUILD Grant application to fund the project.

Frank Higgins mentioned that the MPI program provides 50/50 funding split between MaineDOT and municipalities. It is a competitive process, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Costs can be minimized by the Town as there are different rules and requirements for MPIs than federally funded projects. The next round of MPI funding is available in 2020 and project awards will be selected in January 2019. If the scope of the project is reduced, the Town of Hampden could submit an application for MPI funding to potentially fund half of the cost of completing the project.

Steve and Darryl will provide the requested information at the June meeting for the Policy Committee to review and continue discussions on this issue.

Pavement Management RFP Update

Topic	Discussion	Action
	Rob Kenerson is still talking with Maine DOT about that ARAN data. He will have more information at the next meeting.	

Transit Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
Funding	On May 10, FTA announced the fiscal year apportionments for 2018. Community Connector was awarded \$404,000 in Section 5307 STIC incentive funding for meeting two of FTA's service factors, in addition to the appropriated \$839,410 Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funding. Community Connector was also allocated \$127,530 by MaineDOT in Section 5339 formula funds appropriated to the State for small urban transit system capital funding for bus and bus facilities. This funding is about \$30,000 more than anticipated. Connie will be working with Community Connector to develop the TIP Amendment/Modification for the next Policy Committee meeting.	

Technical Issues

Topic	Discussion	Action
Construction Updates	<p>Orono</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangeley Road is now closed. The project is moving along well. They are on track or ahead of schedule at this point. <p>Bangor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has begun on the Maine Avenue preservation project. The city is doing a stormwater project as well. • Ohio/14th and Union/14th signals have gone out to bid. • Work is starting on Outer Hammond Street. • Downtown is torn up as part of the sewer project. • An RFP for 1,000 feet of sewer work received no bids. <p>Hampden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water line projects starts in June. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small stormwater project on Coldbrook Road. <p>Brewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A couple of projects have gone out for bid. The Riverwalk Trail came in a little high. Brewer will provide the extra funding. • Whitmore won the bid for Mill Street. • AD Electric was chosen for three intersections. • The street light replacement project is approximately 30% complete. 	
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MDOT Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bid for Wilson Street came in under so there should be some funding going back into the holding WIN. • Working on Orrington project estimate on Route 15. • Waiting on update from T.Y. Lin on the Orono culvert project. • Cyclical pavement resurfacing in Hampden, Bangor and Levant. • Gilman Falls 	
Bicycle/Pedestrian	<p>Patrick met with UMaine to talk about Bicycle/Pedestrian improvements from campus to Old Town and Orono. A short-term priority isto put a sidewalk on Rangeley Road going into campus in conjunction with the round about project.</p> <p>Maine DOT is recommending that RRFBS purchased be audible for the visually impaired.</p>	
I-395 Extension	<p>Patrick reported that the I-395 extension is moving forward. The tentative preliminary public meeting date is June 22, but has not yet been finalized. PDR will be complete by July 2019; PS&E in February 2020, and construction start October 2021. Preliminary estimates is the total project cost will be \$79,250,000.</p>	

Other Business

Topic	Discussion	Action
Bike/Ped Study	Connie asked the Committee to submit recommendations members to serve on the BACTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Long-Range Plan Advisory Committee. Belle Ryder, Linda Johns, and John Theriault volunteered to serve. Patrick Adams and John Devin offered to assist either directly or through a designee. Connie reported that Catherine Conlow submitted a recommendation for Kierie Piccininni from Bangor Walk N Roll. The Policy Committee also suggested Erik DaSilva be asked to serve on the Advisory Committee. Connie will contact both Kierie and Erik to ask if they are willing and available to serve on the Advisory Committee.	
Work Plan	Dianne received 23 project submissions and will start on data collection. She also asked anyone who may need counts to let her know right away so they can be scheduled.	

Topic	Discussion	Action
Adjournment		<i>The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.</i>