

Penobscot TIM Group Meeting
February 10, 2021
1130
VIA Zoom

Welcome

Dianne opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Introductions

Oriana Fleming -Northern Light Medical Transport

Rob McGraw - East Millinocket Fire

Joe Lacerda- Maine DOT

Steve Thebarga - Maine DOT

Eric Pellitier- Bangor Fire

Aaron Turcotte - Maine State Police

Lt Jim Ellis Penobscot Sheriff Office

Angela Helms - Northern Light Medical Transport

Bruce Mattson -Maine DOT

Andrew Allen-Maine DOT

Jon Roebuck (J.R.) - Life Flight

Dianne Rice-Hansen - BACTS

Open Floor/Check in

Area Incident Review/discussions

Bruce Mattson discussed the safety Audit that was presented at our December meeting. He is still looking for feedback. Dianne said she had sent out the recording of the presentation after the last meeting and asked folks to provide any feedback.. She can send it out again and remind folks to provide feedback. Bruce noted there was another accident yesterday in that area which is typical this time of year. Due to shading, higher elevations and the road staying cooler and icing up.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to watch the presentation here is the link [I-95 Safety Audit](#) . Please provide any feedback to Bruce Mattson at Bruce.Mattson@maine.gov

Steve Thebarga said the winter has been very pedestrian friendly. If anyone has any thoughts on how MaineDOT can respond or assist better they would like to hear about it.

Eric Pellitier brought up a previous discussion about mile marker signs being added every 1/10th of a mile though the section noted in the safety audit. Eric noted there was an incident recently where multiple calls were received about several crashes with multiple injuries. Three towns were toned out to respond. The locations provided were all over the place because people did not know where they were. Because of that there were several resources put out on the road during bad weather unnecessarily because it was one accident and not multiple accidents as suspected because of the different reports called in. Bruce said adding the mile marker signs was discussed in traffic and nothing so far has been decided. Bruce also said that he recalls a comment mentioned about the cross overs and having better markings at the

cross overs. Steve noted that there is a statewide meeting and we can certainly bring these items up. Steve also thought it was placing markers every ½ mile, but other states have them more frequent. Andrew Allen said he had talked to Steve Landry and Steve was all in favor of putting them every 1/10th of a mile. Steve said hopefully the markings are done appropriately i.e 171.1, 171.2 etc.

Angela Helms also mentioned the crossovers. When you are going north of Old Town the snow is usually heavier and the crossovers are very hard to find. The markers are too short. Steve Theborge thanked Angela for this feedback. He said we want to make sure we are marking them well enough so EMS /safety vehicles can find them easier. Andrew said he had designed something a while back but it never went anywhere and he would resuscitate that and bring it back for review. Rob McGraw mentioned Illinois uses three signs with circles. Three circles at 3/10th of a mile before the crossover, 2 circles 2/10th of a mile before and 1 circle 1/10th of a mile before.

Bruce also mentioned that they put up mile markers on Route 9 every two miles. Joe Lacerda mentioned even every 2 miles may not be enough. Jim Ellis asked how far it goes on Route 9. Joe said they start at the intersection of Route 46/9 and go east down Route 9 every 2 miles. Bruce said he believes they are changing that to every mile. Andrew Allen said eventually they will come further west when the I-395 connector is completed and the markers will begin at the off ramp.

Training

Dianne shared that the state is in the process of hiring a consultant to do a strategic plan and also develop some virtual /in person training materials. She hopes to hear more about when that will start at the Statewide meeting on Friday. There will be a point where this group may be brought in to provide feedback.

Dianne also mentioned that though EDC 6 there will be some additional training tools coming that will be more focused on the rural areas and not so much of a focus on the interstate system. She will continue to watch for updates on this and share them as they become available.

Future training and momentum

Dianne mentioned she is going to do some outreach to the more rural areas in the Penobscot county area through her Penobscot Rural contract. She thanked folks for their input on the list she sent out yesterday and if anyone else has any information on representatives in the rural area please let me know. She is looking for names, titles, emails and phone numbers. She noted that many of these towns have volunteer fire departments. Getting them to a training may prove more difficult since it would have to be done on their own time and cost. We may be able to do training in person with a couple of towns together but it may have to be an evening training. She asked for input from those who are currently teaching the Responder training classes what their thought is on this. Joe said there are enough people trained now that he feels we could “catch up” pretty quickly once we are able to do in person training again.

Dianne then asked what folks' thoughts are on doing virtual training classes. These could be live zoom classes or recorded classes. Rob McGraw said because we have moved into a virtual world we do need to be flexible and offer virtual classes. Oriana agreed with Rob. Although in person training is best, we also don't want to lose the momentum. Joe asked Dianne to look into what other States are doing as far as training and virtual classes.

Dianne will look into what other states are doing in the interim if any of you talk to anyone interested in the training who does not want to wait until our sessions begin again they can always take the online course. Although the focus is on some of the larger states and multi lane highways the information is good and the practices can be applied to all areas.

Next meeting

We are going to schedule out our next three meetings to get them on everyone's schedules. We will meet the 2nd Wednesday of every other month for now. I will send out evites for this shortly.

Our next meetings will take place on
April 14, 2021-1130 -VIA ZOOM
June 9, 2021 -1130 - VIA ZOOM
August 11, 2021 -11:30 (Possibly in person with Lunch)

Respectfully Submitted by
Dianne Rice-Hansen