

Penobscot County
Traffic Incident Management Group
December 12, 2020
11:00
Via Zoom

Minutes

1. Welcome

Dianne welcomed everyone to the meeting and we did introductions.

Attendees: Sgt Aaron Turcotte, Maine State Police; Eric Pelletier, Bangor Fire Department; Joe Lacerda, Maine DOT, Paul Nichols, Maine DEP, Steve Theberge, Maine DOT; Bruce Matteson, Maine DOT; Andrew Allen, Maine DOT, Jeff Pulver, Maine DOT; Dennis Emidy, Maine DOT; Dan Merrill, Orono Police Department; Rob McGraw, East Millinocket Fire Department; Jon Roebock, Life Flight; Oriana Flemming, Northern Light Medical Transport; Ryan Davis, Holden Fire Department; Bill Birch, Penobscot Sheriff's Department; Dianne Rice-Hansen, BACTS

2. MaineDOT Safety Audit Presentation Pittsfield to Carmel

Jeff Pulver and Dennis Emidy from Maine DOT presented the safety audit to the group and asked for feedback.

The following was the feedback given during the meeting:

Ryan Davis: It is important to reach out to the fire and EMS along this area and get them more involved with TIM.

Dianne shared that she is currently working on contacting the rural towns in Penobscot county including those along this corridor.

Rob McGraw: When does Maine DOT get their people involved and should they be dispatched at the same time that fire and EMS are or should it be a request from the fire chief.

Steve Theberge responded to the questions saying that they have crews ready to go and respond to emergency events. The challenge in the winter can be that their crews are out plowing at the time of the incidents however there are still a number of accidents in the

summer. MaineDOT works with the State Police to ensure they are notified in many circumstances MaineDOT crews are on site before Emergency vehicles.

For those who did not attend the meeting, attached is the [link to the presentation](#). (Note audio does not begin until slide # 3 the entire presentation is 35 minutes long.) If you know anyone that should see this presentation please forward the link If you have any comments please forward them to Bruce.Mattson@maine.gov

3. Open Floor /Check In/Area Incident Review/Discussions

- Eric Pelletier shared an incident on the I-95 off ramp to Broadway and wanted to give a kudos to the State Police officer who used the push bar to move vehicle out of the way and therefore shortened the delay on the interstate.
- Steve Thebarger asked if there were any issues during the last few storms? Aaron Turcotte shared that troop E had about 30 incidents that were more in the rural area between the hours of 1-6, most of which were just slideoffs. Troop C from Augusta up through Newport was much busier. Staffing is a big issue and because of that they had 20 or more calls they had not been able to attend to right away. the plan this winter is if a car is just a slide off and they can get back on they will be either pushed off the interstate or if able drive off on their own and the State Police will follow up at a later time for the report. This will help to avoid the secondary crashes.
- Aaron also noted there is significant rutting from mile marker 180 to 173. There is a lot of ponding water after and during rain events and this is an issue for crashes in that 9 mile area. If there any plan to fix this? Bruce, Jeff and Dianne confirmed that there is a ultra thin bond wearing course project scheduled for that area. It was supposed to be done this year however it will be being done next year. The project will go both north and south bound. Bruce noted that because of the delay MaineDOT had to stripe the road last minute.

- Bruce Mattson - discussed the review of loop ramps due to some crashes and a fatality at one of them. They are looking at signing, adding chevrons to the loops to help slow people down. He also noted the cloverleaf at the I-95/I395 area. Steve Theborge mentioned that they were also looking at taking some trees down but ran into some environmental issues and funding shortfalls.
- Jeff Pulver noted that over the last couple months they created a rank for off ramps. The Safety Department and MaineDOT will be looking at future workplans to add signage and review posted speeds. Dennis said that the last time they wanted to do some clearing and it took well over a year to get everything cleared though DEP. Steve Theborge said that if the tree removal is done before April there is less impacts - due to bat habitat. Also people don't want to have a lot of trees cut and tend to complain. Need to have a rationale on why it needs to be done.

4. Training update

Dianne gave an update on training. We recently did a train the trainer class via ZOOM so we can get the ball rolling on adding additional trainers. We have some now but we have a huge area to cover and cannot expect those few we have available to do all the needed training. We are doing more outreach in the Rural Penobscot towns as well as Hancock and Washington Counties and will need folks to go to those areas to teach the responder training classes. We prefer to have 2 to 3 trainers teach the class together.

We are currently on a hold/wait and see for training due to the current COVID situation. After the holidays we will reevaluate where we are and if restrictions remain in place we may move toward a virtual training platform for the immediate future so we can keep the momentum going. Ideally having training done in person is best but after the train the trainer class we found that you can still have some interaction with the group using the platform. Steve Theborge asked if Federal Highway was going to allow us to continue using the current train the trainer process. Dianne shared that we are working on how to meet the criteria they want which is a day and a half class. It is hard for us to

get folks to commit to a day and a half not to mention getting the trainers who can take 12 hours out of their busy schedules. The hope is we can get something in writing to Federal Highway for approval where we have the 4 hour TtT class followed by shadowing 2 - 4 hour responder training classes. This allows the new trainees to see how a training should run and gives them opportunity to teach a module or two while in the company of experienced trainers.

5. Next Meeting Date - February 10, 2021 - 1100 Via ZOOM

6. Adjourn: 1210