

Hancock TIM Group Meeting Notes
April 7, 2021
1730 Via Zoom

Welcome

Lt Charatte welcomed the group.

Attending: Lt Rod Charette, Maine State Police
Steve Landry, Maine DOT
Andy Sankey, Hancock EMA
Barbara MacPike, MDI Hospital
Bob Webber, Winter Harbor Fire
Bob Watson, Maine DOT
Craig Shane, Dedam Fire
Capt. David Kerns, Mount Desert and Bar Harbor Police Dept.
Jarod Farn-Guillette, Hancock County Planning Commission
Kellon Ronspies, FHwy
Lisa Hanscom, Washington County EMA
Logan Thomas, Maine State Police
Oriana Flemming,
Steve Theborge, Maine DOT
Tommy Morris, Brooklin Fire
Joe Lacerda, Maine DOT

Statewide TIM Update

A consultant has been hired to work with the TIM groups. They will be meeting with each of the TIM groups to talk about what they are doing. They will come up with a consensus on what TIM as a whole wants to do. Each group may still have different things going on but trying to get a consensus on what is discussed at the meetings. Agenda items such as; after incident discussions, what went right, what went wrong, make it a learning experience. Getting the towing industry more involved with TIM and getting them to the meetings. We know this has been an issue in some areas. Developing the training materials to include more information about the rural settings, less focus on highways. Make them more applicable to the area.

Rod, noted that he has been trying to reach out to Washington County police, fire etc but cannot get any response. Need to figure out how to communicate with them.

Evacuation Implementation Plan -update

Andy Sankey discussed this project but felt this is not something that should fall under this group. Traffic management is a part of this group as is the signage and the contraflow plans but not an overall evacuation plan. Andy mentioned in the beginning when he was approached by MaineDOT (Joe Lacerda and Steve Theborge) to develop

this group, the carrot was the federal dollars that might come with it. Andy would really like to see augmented signage for coastal evacuations. Andy welcomes everyone to be part of the evacuation planning but the task should not fall under the TIM group. That task is much bigger than this group and should be taken on by another agency such as MEMA.

Dave Kearns mentioned that during an evacuation, even an event evacuation can cause a bottleneck in Ellsworth. He suggested taking it back to the district 7 chiefs to work hand in hand with the development of signs/placement to help with the movement of traffic. Rod asked if Bar Harbor/Mt Desert has an evacuation plan in place now. Dave said that Bar Harbor does have a plan which they use every 4th of July to move traffic out of the town. This plan is adapted and changed as needed. Dave noted again that getting them off the island isn't really the issue. The bottleneck begins once they get into Ellsworth and beyond getting traffic up to I-395. This is something that needs to be discussed with Ellsworth PD.

Andy wanted to speak to the difference between the larger plan and a smaller tactical operation. An accident on Route 3 that closes the road would be an example of a tactical operation. It would be good to have all disciplines work together on this although Law enforcement plays a large role the fire departments in many cases are the ones setting up detours and directing traffic and dealing with the public. Therefore it is so important to include them and the EMS groups in this sort of discussion. TIMs is a great focal point to bring that all together.

Andy asked what the chances are we may see signs and a public relations campaign explaining what the signs are and what they mean and where people are supposed to go. Joe said the detour signs are done. Steve Theborge followed up by saying the hinges for the signs did not come in. They have been ordered and they hope to have the signs ready to be installed in the next couple months. Joe asked for clarification on a public relations campaign. Andy believes doing a couple articles in the BDN or a news story and also using the message boards, just to make people aware would suffice. Steve Landry said that the State has done an outreach campaign that can target a certain area. They would work with the group to come up with what that may look like. Steve Theborge said that they ran a campaign when the interstate detour signs went up but they realize now they did not do enough, however some people are still not going to pay attention to them so there is no way to get to everyone. He suggested using social media and any other avenue they can to get the word out. Andy also wanted to reiterate the need to address the 15 year old evacuation signs that were put up with funding from a Tsunami grant. They provide no real directions to the traveling public. Steve Theborge noted that if an evacuation was needed due to a weather event you do have some notice to plan for that which is different than an accident that closes down a road.

Steve Landry asked if there has been any discussions with the City of Ellsworth regarding the signals in that area. There is capability to change the plans in the event it was needed. Steve L also said he would be replacing the signals at the head of the island and the in town signal and the two in Trenton so those will also all be capable of doing

more. There will be some conversation with fire and rescue in those communities to discuss preemption.

Training Update

Dianne discussed training options moving forward. She is ready to start the in person training again and in hopes of doing some in late May. She is reaching out to her trainers to find out their availability. The consultant will also be playing a part in helping us get our training program more targeted toward the rural roads. Although some adaptations have been made already we want to be able to target the area we are teaching in. Stay tuned we should have some news on those opportunities shortly.

Area incident discussions

4 Car accident, with one fatal on 172 near the Surry Line. Hancock SO took care of it, MaineDOT did not get called. There was one vehicle that drove head on into several other vehicles. On scene a little more than 1 hour with trucks on either side of the accident trying to go to calls but unable to get through. The incident was mapped via drone.

Other news and information

Andy shared that on April 20th Healthy Acadia will be doing a food box distribution. They will be working out of the parking lot at the Gateway Center from 9 am -12 PM. Andy has concerns with Route 3 and vehicles making a left hand turn out of the Gateway Center back towards Ellsworth. He suspects Hancock SO will probably have a cruiser there to help with traffic. They will then head to Bucksport on the River Road. Hancock SO will be coordinating in Trenton and Bucksport Police will be coordinating in Bucksport

Joe asked if Craig wanted to get preemption for the 1A and RT 46 signal in Holden
Craig said it wasn't necessary they are making a right hand turn 95% of the time.

The bid for the 1-395 extension goes out this year with anticipation of completion late 2023, early 2024. The extension should help with the signal at 1A and 46 by taking a lot of the truck traffic off of 46.

Steve L asked what folks have on their wish list for devices in the field such as message boards and other items. He has to do a budget and needs to have the information soon. This would be for 2024. There is already funds in the 2023 budget for signs on Route 3.

Steve also has two smaller folding messageboards he would like to give to a couple folks to try. The sign open is 60 inches and folds up and goes in the trunk or back of a truck and can be programmed with a laptop. It sits on a tripod. He is looking for feedback on usability to see if it is something they may order again.

Next Meeting

The group decided to begin meeting in person on a quarterly basis starting in June. Meetings will be at 9:30 AM and approximately 1 hour long. In the event there is a hot topic issue that cannot wait for one of the quarterly meetings we could convene for a special meeting.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES:

Here are the next 4 meeting Dates - An EVITE will follow shortly for the June meeting to get it on your calendar. Agenda will be sent closer to the date. Please let Dianne or Rod know if you have any agenda items.

- a. June 16, 2021 -9:30 in person, location to be determined.
- b. September 15, 2021- 9:30 in person, location to be determined.
- c. December 15, 2021 -9:30 in person, location to be determined.
- d. March 16, 2022-9:30 in person, location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted

By Dianne Rice-Hansen