

Penobscot County  
Traffic Incident Management Group  
April 14, 2020  
1130  
Via Zoom

**AGENDA**

**Welcome**

Dianne welcomed the group.

Introductions were made.

Those in attendance:

Dianne Rice-Hansen-BACTS

Oriana Fleming - Northern Light Medical Transport

Sgt. Aaron Turcotte - Maine State Police

Steve Landry-MaineDOT

Kellon Ronspies - FHwy

Eric Pelletier -Bangor Fire

Bruce Mattson-MaineDOT

Alden McLaughlin-MaineDOT

Brian Lawrence -FHwy

Jon.Roebuck - Lifeflight

Andrew Allen-MaineDOT

Jim Ellis - Penobscot Sheriff's Office

**Open Floor /Check In**

**CMS Messaging -Steve Landry**

Steve asked what are thoughts on messages to put on the variable message boards on the interstate. They are trying to get away from just a 45 MPH flashing sign and instead have a more detailed message that says icy conditions, slow down, or other similar messages. Aaron agreed that the messages should be something other than just 45 MPH. Andrew and Bruce and Jim also felt the more information you can share the better. If all the public sees is 45 with no reason why they are not going to obey the limit and could come up on poor conditions down the road when it is too late to slow down. Steve asked how the oversize

vehicles/loads are impacted and if that 45 MPH message is for them or not. Steve will reach out to Aaron Hayden to ask about that piece.

Aaron Turcotte also thought if we had the message boards on the overpasses especially closer to Bangor possibly at Hogan Road south bound and Hammond St northbound. The problem areas are between exit 180, 183 and 185 during weather conditions.

Aaron offered to take Steve to a few areas where he feels some issues could be mitigated with additional signage. Please reach out to Steve Landry if you have any suggestions on messages to post. [@Stephen.landry@maine.gov](mailto:@Stephen.landry@maine.gov)

**Update on interstate mile markers** - This is still being looked at but so far there has not been a great reception from upper management. The questions that were brought up was why can't the vehicle location be done through GPS on their phone. When that was looked at, it was determined it is not always an option. Maintenance of the signs was another question as there are currently some white flags on the side of the road and every year they have to replace a bunch of those so cost is one of the road blocks but they are still continuing to look at it.

Dianne also asked about signs that would indicate where a crossover is. Steve/Alden said they are marked with an amber delineator on both sides now. Steve wanted to know what exactly are folks looking for. At the last meeting the request was more notification to let them know the crossover is 1 mile or ½ mile away. Steve said he really doesn't want to bring attention to the crossover for the general public. One of the suggestions at the last meeting was signs with maybe circles 3, 2 and 1, similar to signs in other states that indicate how far away they are. Not something the general public would understand. Aaron weighed in that there is already a resource guide that pinpoints every crossover for first responders which dispatch should have. His concern is marking them would encourage those who already use them who are not supposed to use them more and could cause crashes.

## **Statewide Update -Steve Landry**

### **Consultant**

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 we are 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. We will be getting back to in person training but understand there will still need to be some form of virtual training or recorded training.

### **Wish List**

Steve also asked about a wish list because this summer he is going to be putting together his budget for 2024. MaineDOT works on a cycle that is 3 years out and in order to get in line for funding the requests have to be made 3 years in advance.

Where are the needs, where are variable message signs needed, where could ITS be implemented. What other equipment is needed. This isn't necessarily just on the interstate this could be any road in town where there may be a need.

Dianne talked about the permanent signage that will be going up in Hancock County that will be put up in trouble areas with frequent incidents and limited detour options. These signs are foldable and are only opened when needed. They are pink with black lettering and border.

Bruce noted that there are currently no variable message boards or signs on I-395 and there is quite a bit of traffic going on I-395 west to I-95 north. It would be good to have a sign prior to that so when it is needed they could direct traffic to get onto Odlin Road and not get onto the interstate. There is one just before the Coldbrook Road and one just after I-395 so those areas are covered but he believes it is warranted to have an additional sign on I-395.

Steve also has a foldable message sign that can be kept in the trunk of a car or truck and set up with a laptop. He is looking for a volunteer to try them out to see if this is something that would be helpful and they should order more of. Aaron said they will try one out with one of their interstate patrol officers.

Please contact Steve Landry with any wish list items @ [Stephen.landry@maine.gov](mailto:Stephen.landry@maine.gov)

### **Area Incident Review/Discussions**

Kenduskeag Bridge had a 4 car pile up due to a broken down vehicle. The protocol now is to get a quicker response and not wait for police to arrive if a wrecker gets there they should take care of the situation and remove the vehicle sooner rather than later. This is a congested area and it does not take much for an incident like this to happen. He was surprised that only 4 cars were involved because the traffic was backed up so far he expected it to be 50 cars.

Alden said even when they put the message boards on people don't pay any attention to them or slow down. Not sure what the remedy / fix is.

Steve mentioned that ITS could include cameras where those could be installed and these would feed back to the command center in Augusta and the city would then be able to see what is happening on the interstate at any given time as well as monitor vehicle speeds and road conditions.

Eric talked about another incident on I-95 southbound just after Union Street with a vehicle rollover, we were able to help shut off the on ramps. Getting those ramps shut down is such a huge part. He knows there had been previous discussion about having gates that would come down to block the ramps and not allow traffic to get on them. Anything we can do to mitigate that with limited resources would be helpful.

### **Training update**

We are pushing for in person training again. Dianne is hoping to have all the training in the state be organized and posted in one place. She is reaching out to all the current trainers and future trainers in the state to get feedback on what everyone's availability is and then we will start putting a schedule together. The goal is to get a schedule started in May. Please let Dianne know what training needs you have so she can determine how many training sessions she will need to set up.

### **Next Meeting**

Dianne suggested moving back to a quarterly meeting structure the group agreed. Next meeting would be in June and then from that point forward we would be meeting on a quarterly basis. Meetings would be 11AM-1 PM. The group decided to go back to in person meetings with a virtual option.

Next meeting dates: Please save the dates for the next meetings.

- June 22, 2021 @ Maine State Police Barracks in Bangor 11:00 AM to 1:PM Evite has been sent.
- September 28, 2021 11AM to 1PM - Location TBD
- December 14, 2021 11 AM to 1 PM -Location TBD

Respectfully submitted by  
Dianne Rice-Hansen  
TIM Group Facilitator