## Midcoast TIM Group Meeting September 24, 2021 1230-2:00

## Lincoln County Planning Commission 297 Bath Road, Wiscasset, ME.

#### Welcome

Dianne welcomed the group

## Introductions In Attendance:

Steve Hunnewell, Assistant Traffic Engineer, MaineDOT
Steve Landry, State Traffic Engineer, MaineDOT
David Allen, MaineDOT Region 3
Emily Rabbe, Lincoln County Regional Planning
Sarah Bennett, Director, Sagadahoc County EMA
Dianne Rice-Hansen, Transportation Project Manager, BACT

#### **Guest Speaker**

Steve Hunnewell, Assistant State Traffic Engineer- Maine DOT Presentation on the Maine Traffic Management Center- Slides from Steve's presentation are attached and referenced in the minutes.

Steve shared the phone number<sup>1</sup> for the TMC with the group, and asked them to write it down and use it when they needed to. He wanted to also give an overview of what the TMC is and what they do.

The TMC is open and manned 24/7, 365 days a year. When the TMC was first started it was in a very small room they referred to as the closet<sup>2</sup>. It was very cramped and they did not have the tools they have to use today. In the new TMC there are a minimum of 1 and up to 3 people who work in the TMC at any given time. They cover from Kittery to Fort Kent. Each of the desks has multiple monitors to allow for every possible piece of information there is to be in front of the operators who work at the TMC This is so they can monitor what is going on out on the roads right from their desks. There is now also a wall of monitors referred to as the Management Information Screens. This wall of screens shows the same information that the operators are seeing at their desks. If upper level management comes to the TMC, they can see exactly what is going on at any given time without interrupting the operators. There is also a second room which is the command center where upper management, government and such would meet in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Slide #1 and 28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Slide #2

the event of an emergency, or extreme weather event this room also has a wall of Management Information screens<sup>3</sup>

The mission<sup>4</sup> of the TMC is three fold (1-3 Operators)

- Serving as a centralized communications hub, for the public, other Agencies and MaineDOT field personnel in order to both send and receive transportation network information.
- 2. Detecting all unplanned incidents and being aware of all planned incidents on our transportation network.
- Communicating that information accurately to other public agencies and Maine DOT field personnel for incident management; and to motorists using 511 and ITS devices (like message boards) so they can make better safety and mobility decisions.

Information<sup>5</sup> comes in from many different sources such as: traffic/ITS, general public, contractors, MaineDOT crews, municipalities and the State Police. The TMC averages about 100 calls a day. During weather/storm or other events the number of calls can be much higher. Operators are responsible for knowing and keeping track of many things. The current weather conditions /RWTs, all the current construction projects and maintenance lane closures so they can be entered into the 511 database. They may have to call contractors or dispatch plow crews. They also field calls and manage traffic incidents (crashes etc.) and monitor traffic so they can alert the traveling public.

When they moved into the new TMC they wanted to use more technology to better manage traffic. This allows them to be more proactive instead of waiting for someone to call to tell them about a crash or poor road conditions. Some of the technology they are using is TMC alerts via probe data, which gives them real time information. They can monitor the speed of traffic on the roads. They have weather stations and are trying to automate the message boards so that pop up messages alert the traveling public. They are integrating the State Police dispatch into their system so if the State Police enter into CAD that there is a traffic incident it would come up on the TMC screens. The state is going to be responsible for a lot more signal maintenance so they will want to be able to monitor them to ensure they are working properly. In the last year they were able to put up cameras along I-295 which allows for streaming video with pan, tilt and zoom features.<sup>6</sup> This provides a real eye for what is happening. It is important to note these cameras do not record video but if an incident is reported or speeds are slowing the operators can go to these cameras and see what is going on in real time.

<sup>5</sup> Slide #6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Slides # 3 and 4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Slide #5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Slide #7 bottom photo.

The software program the TMC uses is called Compass which is map based. What started it all was the new message boards<sup>7</sup>, all of which have a camera and a radar detector attached to them. They have these situated pretty much after every on ramp on the interstate system as well as some off the interstate system. This allows them to get real time information about the current average speed of the traffic. If traffic slows down this will send an alert to the operator's screen<sup>8</sup>. They can then look at the cameras<sup>9</sup> to see what may be causing the slow down. If traffic slows below a certain speed that area will come up in yellow to alert the operator.

They also have a way to see what message 10 is on the message boards at any given time. This allows them to be able to remove messages that may no longer need to be there. This is also part of the compass software.

They also have other hybrid signs in southern Maine. These signs<sup>11</sup> are auto filled by probe data and help to alert the traveling public of any delays due to high traffic volumes. The probe data vendor they use is TomTom<sup>12</sup>. They have probe data for the entire state. Most of this information comes from cell phone data which helps monitor the traveling public's locations and the speeds they are traveling.

MaineDOT developed an app<sup>13</sup> for the maintenance crews, which can be downloaded to a cell phone. They have 80+ crews out on the roads and they can report back using the app their locations and the road conditions. This saves time for the operators as in the past these crews would be calling in with their reports. The operators could get backed up taking these calls and trying to get this into the system in a timely manner. With the app the information is instantly reflected in the system and on the map. Steve showed a map of what it looks like during a winter storm<sup>14</sup>. As the crews report in using the app the map will populate with their reports.

In addition to the crews reporting in via the app MaineDOT also put up weather stations<sup>15</sup> around the state. There are currently 6 of them set up in Bangor, Etna, Augusta, Richmond, Freeport and Scarborough. In the software that comes with the weather stations they can set up alerts which will send text messages to the crews phones to let them know to go check the road conditions in those locations. Along with these weather stations, last year MaineDOT hired road meteorologists. These

8 Slide #10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Slide #8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Slide #11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Slide #13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Slide #13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Slide #14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Slide #15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Slide #16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Slides 17, 18 and 19 and 20

meteorologists<sup>16</sup> can predict based on the current dew points and other conditions if there may be some travel issues like icing.

There are now safety patrols<sup>17</sup> that patrol I-295 from Freeport to Scarborough. These folks are there to help motorists who have broken down, run out of gas, someone who is lost or possibly just debris on the road. They run primarily on the weekdays but in the summer they do go into the weekends. They are looking at potentially expanding this service into the Bangor area. Steve Landry would like to have any feedback on areas or boundaries where this service would be useful -(see more about this under "Other Business").

All of the information that Steve shared in his presentation can be seen on the New England 511.org website<sup>18</sup>. Anyone can go to this website and see what is going on. Within that site you can also sign up for what is called My Trips. You put in information about your location and you can get a text alert or email if there is an incident, construction, delays or bad weather etc.

#### **Area Incident Reviews**

Amish Buggies colliding with vehicles in Whitefield/Jefferson. About ¼ of the crashes involve the Amish. Winding roads and narrow shoulders are causing visibility issues. One incident was caused by a younger horse. Signs will be put up to warn about the buggies on the roadways.

#### **Statewide TIM Update**

Maine DOT and an advisory committee have been working with IBI Group to develop a Statewide TIM Strategic Plan. The consultant has provided us with a draft Recommendations report. We are going to be having a Statewide TIM group meeting in October. Dianne asked any of those in this group that participate in the Statewide group to please mark your calendars for October 18, 2021 at 1 PM. (Note: An email and Evites to those who are on the Statewide TIM Group list went out on September 29).

#### **Training Updates**

We have held several TIM Responder training classes in the state. Dianne is looking to set up an in person training in Southern Maine as well as a virtual class with anticipation of those classes happening in late Oct, early November. Dianne also mentioned that we will be looking at the training piece as part of the recommendations and that piece will be forthcoming. Dianne had a booth at the 5 county EMA preparedness conference and got a lot of contacts from that. The goal is to hold at least 1 training per month for

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<sup>16</sup> Slide #21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Slides #22, 23 and 24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Slides # 25, 26 and 27

anyone, and then target the smaller volunteer stations for in person training at their stations.

#### Other Business

MaineDOT is putting up some pan, tilt, zoom cameras as part of a lighting project along 295 from Brunswick to Falmouth. They are using a drone to see the best placement for the cameras. Steve Landry asked if there were any areas where there may be a need for variable message boards. He also shared that the variable message board cameras only take still photos and they are at a lower level. He is also looking for other areas where they can put up the pan, tilt, zoom cameras that they might be of use. Suggestions Route1 Wiscasset, Edgecomb, Sagadahoc/Thompson area for message boards.

## **Next Meeting Dates:**

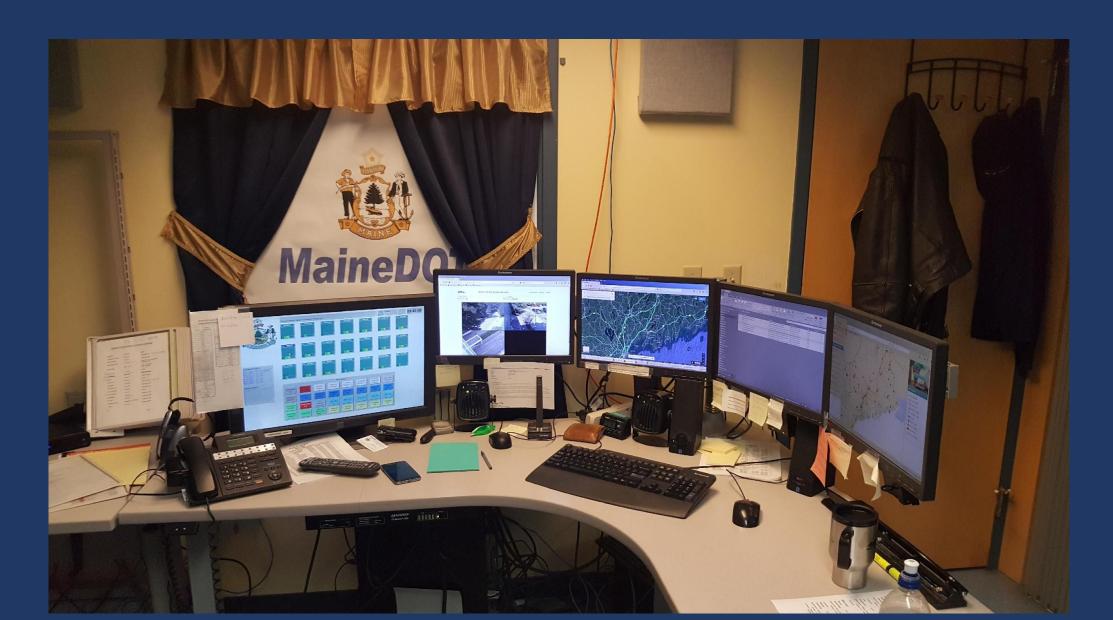
December Meeting Scheduled for December 16, 2021 @ 11:30 virtual only Setting dates for 2022 - March, June, September and December Dianne has sent out a survey to get feedback on meeting dates and time as well as topics of discussion. If you have not already done so please take a few minutes to complete that survey.

Hear is he link https://forms.gle/dsFQNxbestTMwQhu8

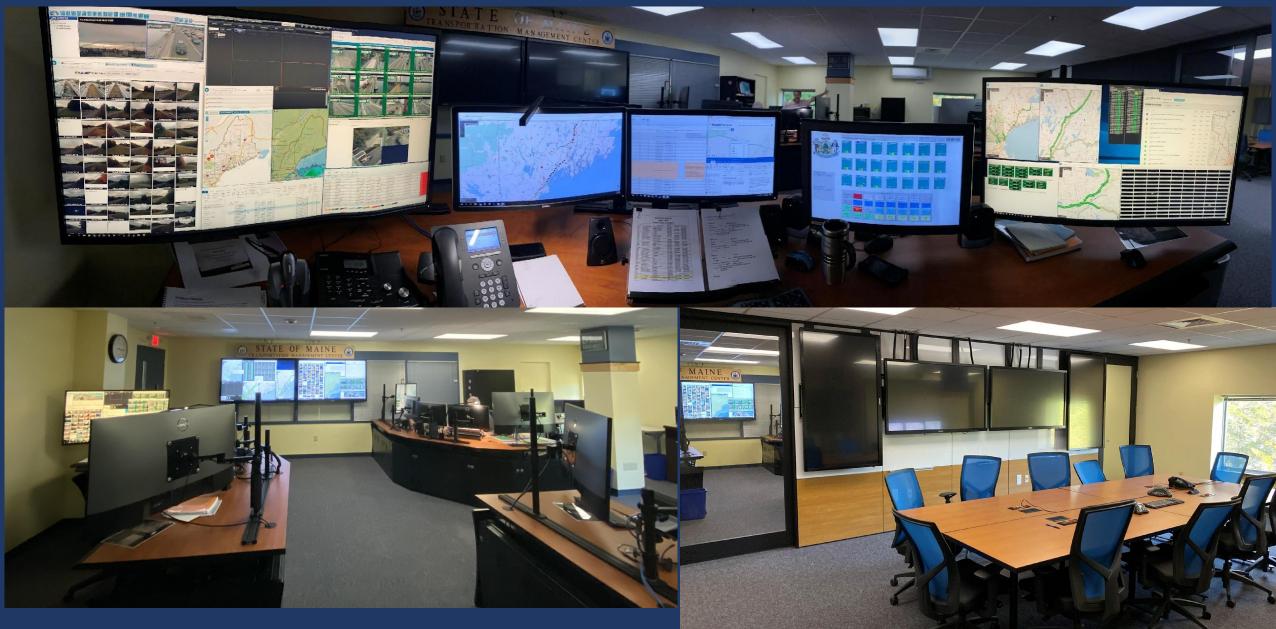
### **Adjourn**

Transportation
Management
Center
207-624-3339

# The Old TMC



The New Location



# Management Information Screens



The mission of the Maine TMC is three-fold (1-3 Operators):

- 1) **Serving as a centralized communications hub** for the Public, other Agencies, and MaineDOT field personnel in order to both send and receive transportation network information.
- 2) **Detecting** all Unplanned Incidents, and being aware of all Planned Incidents, on our Transportation Network.
- 3) **Communicating** that information accurately to other Public Agencies and MaineDOT field personnel for Incident Management; and to Motorists using 511 and ITS Devices (like Message Boards) so they can make better Safety and Mobility decisions.

Traffic/ITS
General Public
Contractors
Crews
Municipalities
State Police



## TMC

- Ave 100+
- Hundreds for storm events



Crews
State Police
General Public

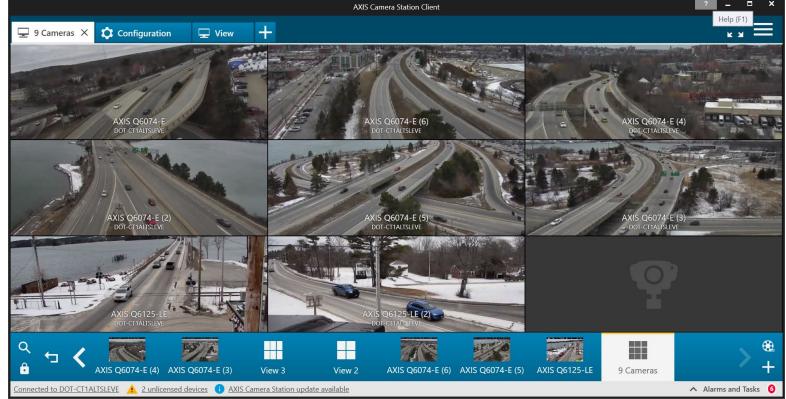
- Keep Track of Weather / RWTs
- Enter ALL State Construction into 511
- Call Contractors
- Dispatch Plow Crews
- Enter Maintenance Lane Closures into 511
- Manage Traffic Incidents (Crashes, etc)
- Field Calls
- Monitor Traffic and Alert the Traveling Public
  - Speeds (TOM TOM and Radar)
  - Road Conditions (RWIS, RWT's)
  - Crashes
  - Message Boards (Cameras and Radar)
  - Safety Patrol
  - Ferry Cancellations
- Enter 10-7/10-8, and Look Out for Safety of Crews

## Apply technology to better manage traffic:

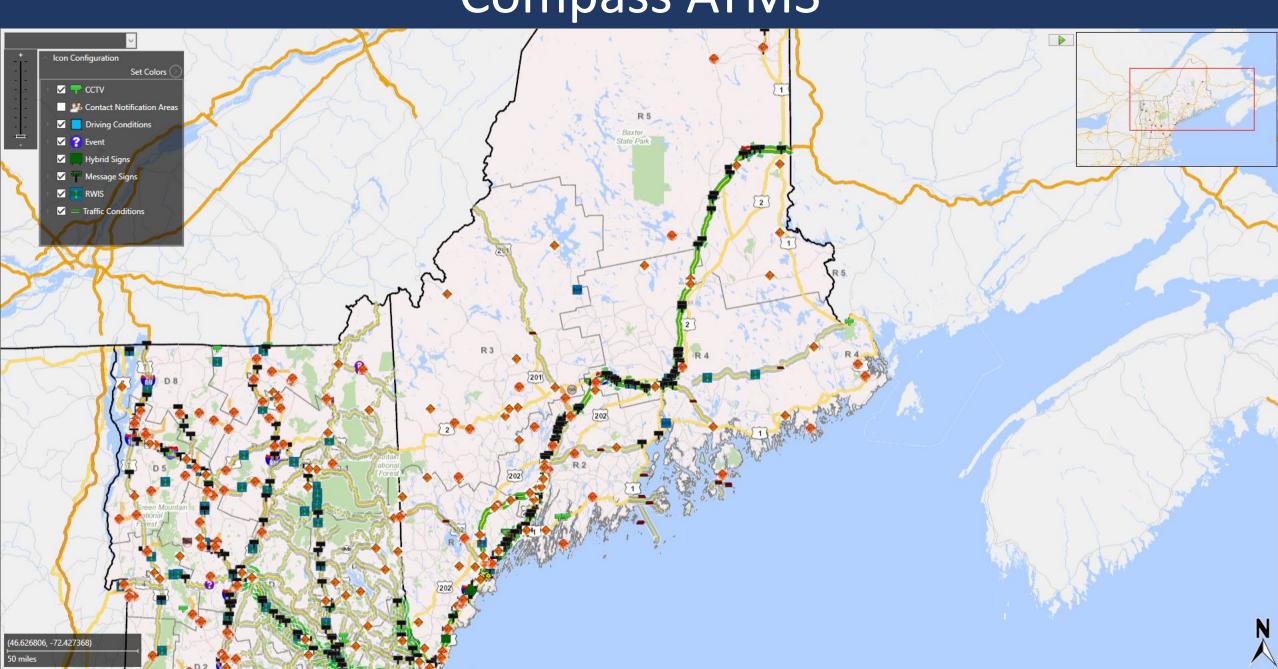
Be proactive rather than reactive to more quickly detect and communicate issues on the road network

- TMC Alerts via Probe Data, RWIS,
- ITS Device Automation using Probe Data/RWIS
- State Police CAD Integration
- Traffic Signal alerts
- RWIS alerts and Road Forecasts
- Streaming Video 295 Portland
- RWT App
- Move software
- DataCapable Partnership



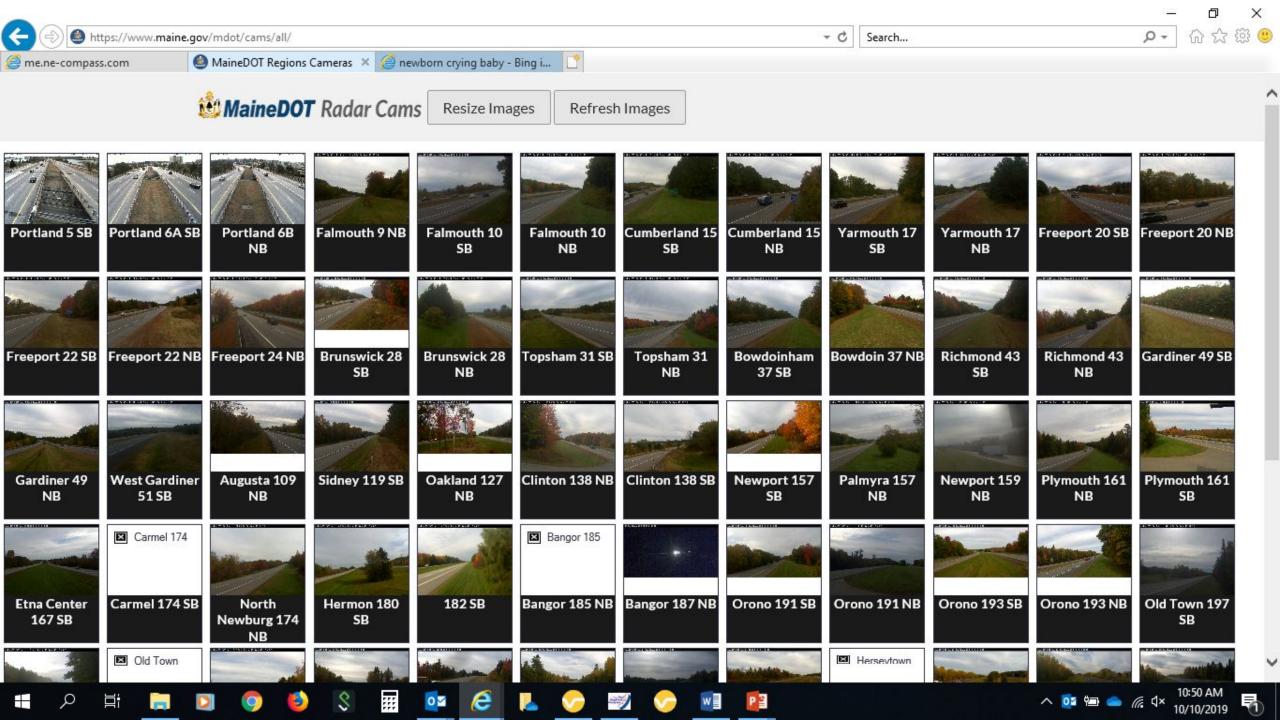


Compass ATMS





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vice	List		I-295 Mile 15 NB 72 mph	12.49 V	I-295 Mile 20 SB 73 mph 12.57 V	
ре	Stat	Name	I-95 Mile 277 NB 68 mph	12.49 V	I-295 Mile 22 SB 67 mph 12.54 V	
	4		I-295 Mile 10 NB 69 mph	12.51 V	I-295 Mile 28 SB 65 mph 12.45 V	
			I-95 Mile 150 NB 75 mph	12.52 V	I-295 Mile 31 SB 70 mph 12.50 V	
			I-95 Mile 244 NB 68 mph	12.61 V	I-295 Mile 37 SB 75 mph 12.44 V	
			I-95 Mile 159 NB 75 mph	12.50 V	I-295 Mile 43 SB 72 mph 12.44 V	
			I-95 Mile 157 NB 72 mph	12.52 V	I-295 Mile 49 SB 75 mph 12.45 V	
			I-95 Mile 191 NB 65 mph	8.41 V	I-295 Mile 51 SB 77 mph 12.44 V	
			I-95 Mile 197 NB 71 mph	12.63 V	I-95 Mile 119 SB 77 mph 12.50 V	
			I-95 Mile 187 NB 71 mph	12.53 V	I-95 Mile 130 SB 71 mph 12.55 V	
			I-295 Mile 31 NB 72 mph	12.49 V	I-95 Mile 138 SB 76 mph 12.50 V	
			I-95 Mile 180 NB 75 mph	11.59 V	I-95 Mile 157 SB 77 mph 12.69 V	
			I-95 Mile 286 NB 75 mph	12.59 V	I-95 Mile 167 SB 73 mph 12.58 V	
			I-295 Mile 28 NB 68 mph	12.48 V	I-95 Mile 174 SB 75 mph 12.59 V	
			I-95 Mile 127 NB 70 mph	12.50 V	I-95 Mile 180 SB 56 mph 12.57 V	
			I-295 Mile 22 NB 64 mph	12.44 V	I-95 Mile 182 SB 76 mph 12.57 V	
			I-95 Mile 291 NB 81 mph	12.47 V	I-95 Mile 191 SB 76 mph 12.46 V	
			I-295 Mile 24 NB 72 mph	12.47 V	I-95 Mile 193 SB 68 mph 12.62 V	
			I-295 Mile 20 NB 68 mph	12.39 V	I-95 Mile 197 SB 81 mph 12.49 V	
			I-295 Mile 43 NB 76 mph	12.53 V	I-95 Mile 199 SB 79 mph 12.62 V	
			I-295 Mile 17 NB 72 mph	12.57 V	I-95 Mile 217 SB 62 mph 12.53 V	
			I-95 Mile 227 NB 73 mph	12.53 V	I-95 mile 227 SB 73 mph 12.59 V	
			I-295 Mile 49 NB 75 mph	12.37 V	I-95 Mile 244 SB 80 mph 12.60 V	
			I-95 Mile 193 NB 68 mph	12.56 V	I-95 Mile 259 SB 75 mph 12.53 V	
			I-95 Mile 185 NB 67 mph	12.57 V	I-95 Mile 264 SB 75 mph 12.66 V	
			I-95 Mile 161 NB 75 mph	12.60 V	I-95 mile 276 SB 68 mph 12.48 V	



File

Standard Signs Hybrid Signs

GM I-95 MM 106.00 S



†□ 1366 × 768px

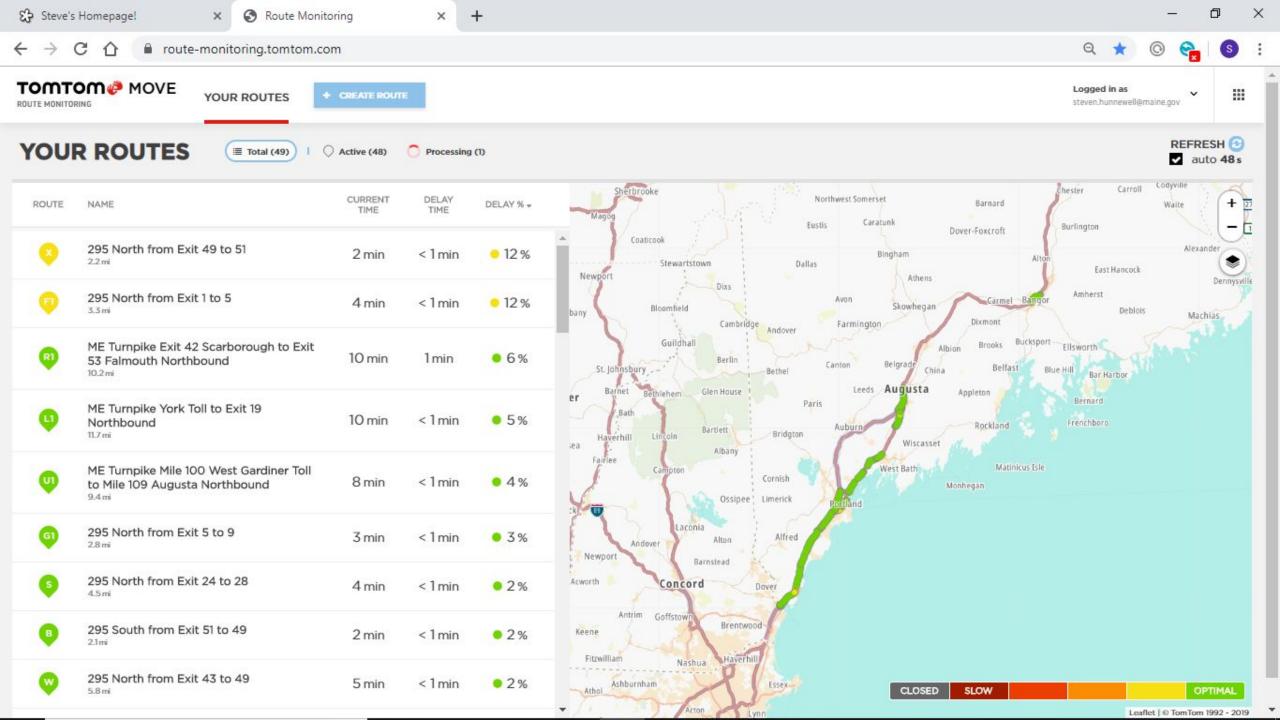
GM I-295 MM 10.42 N

☐ Size: 52.5KB

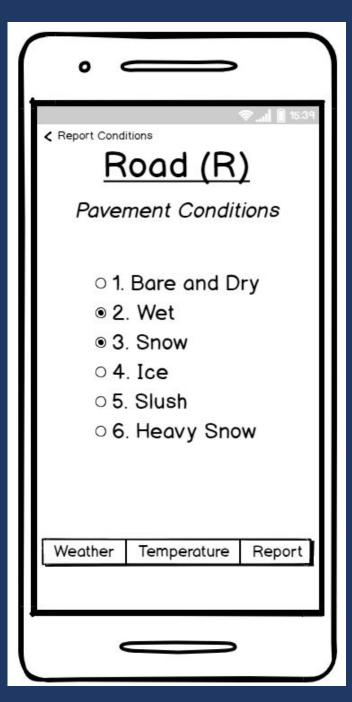
GM I-95 MM 6.30 S

GM I-295 MM 14.19 S

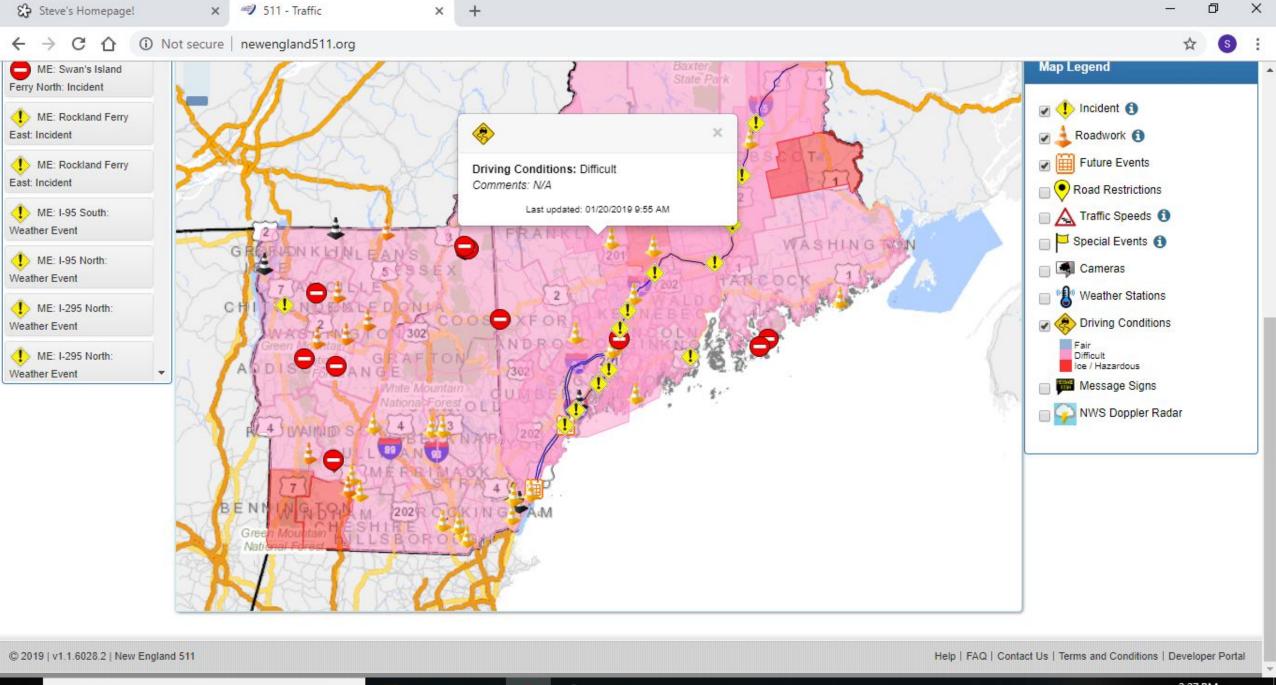
100% (-)



# Road Weather Temperature







Type here to search

















# **Traveler Safety**

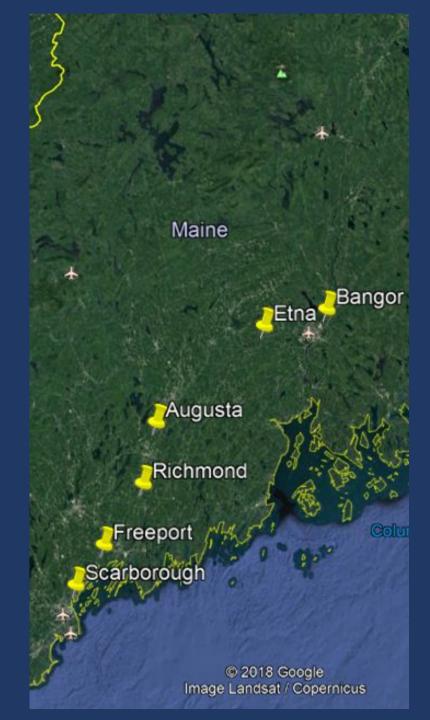
Proactive Planning

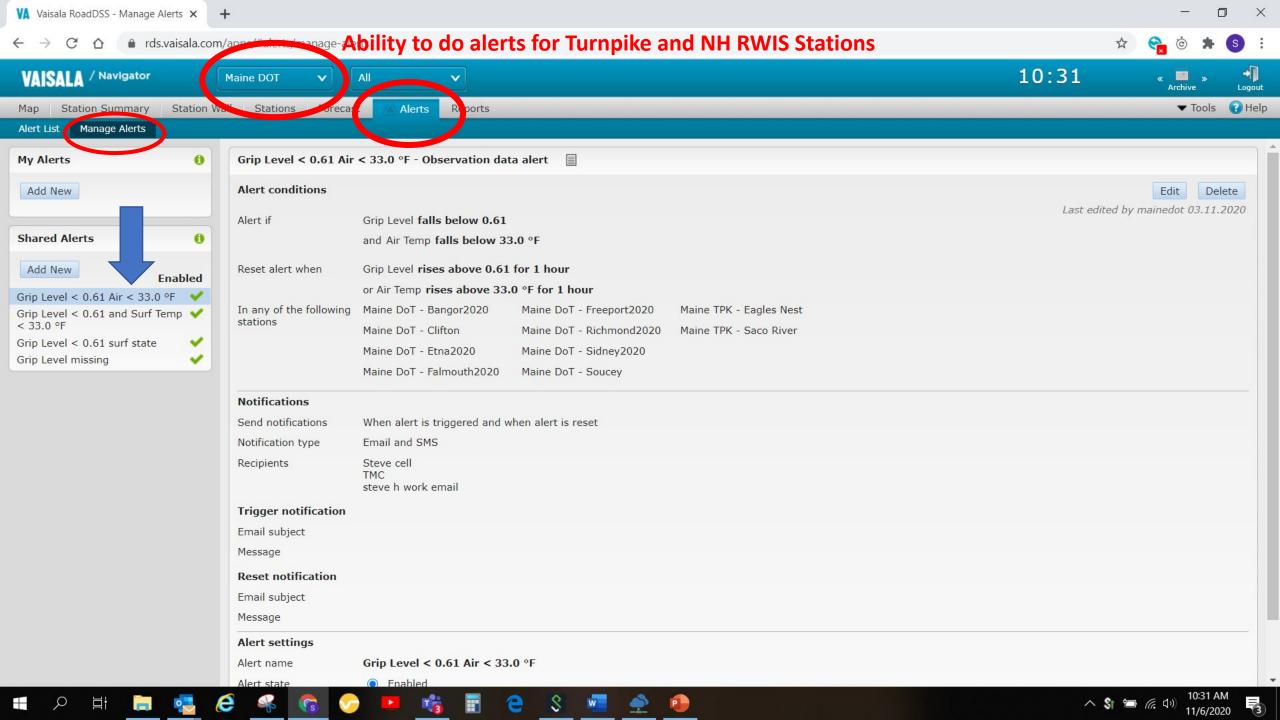
Economic and Environmental Savings

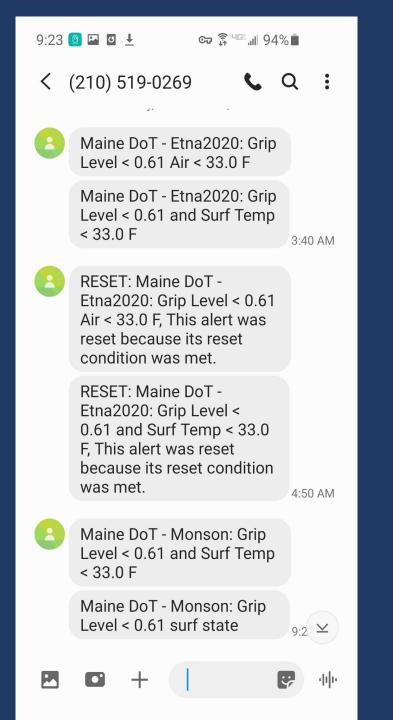


## **New Stations**









## RWIS Forecast for Sidney (SCBRYZM8V7)

Issued At: Wednesday 4 November 2020 2100 EST

Valid Until: Thursday 5 November 2020 2300 EST



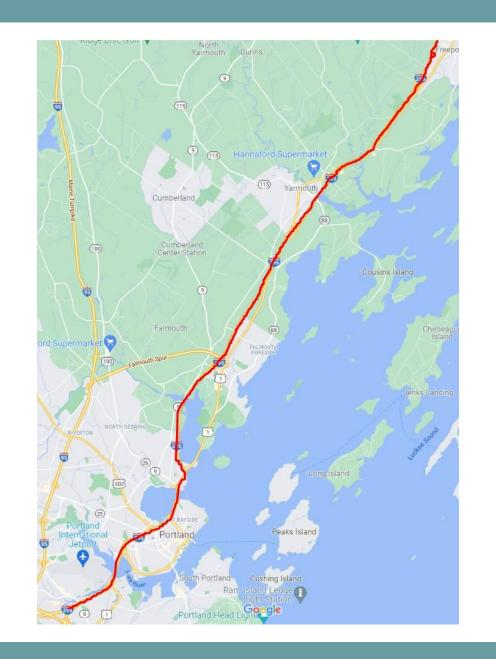
## Maine Discussion

Mainly cloudy today, except with isolated snow showers in the north. Partly cloudy Thursday morning, then mainly sunny Thursday afternoon and evening. Partly cloudy Friday.

#### Forecast

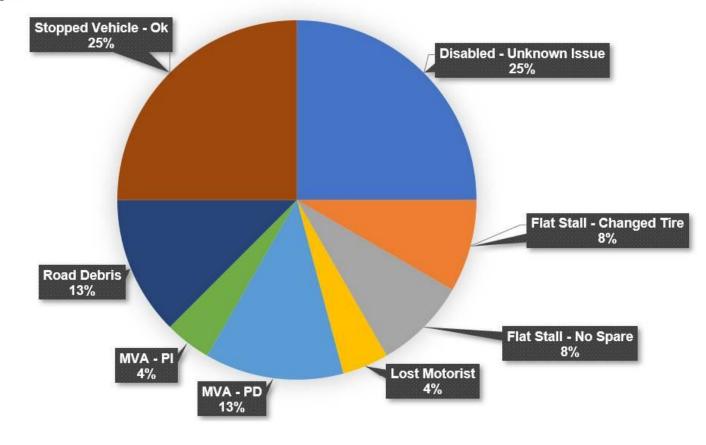
T stands for Trace

Date		04											M.	oveml	er 5	2020									
Period					Overnight				Morning					Afternoon											
Hour (EST)		22	23	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Snow Snow Showers							4																		
Liquid Rate (in/h) Freez. Rate (in/h) Snow Rate (in/h)	0 0 0	000	0 0 0	0 0 0	000	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	000	000	000	000	0 0 0	000	0 0 0	000	0 0	000	0 0 0	000	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0
Liquid Accum. (in) Freez. Accum. (in) Snow Accum. (in)	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0	000	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0
Pressure (mb) Road Conditions	1030	1030	1030	1029	1029	1029	1028	1028	1028	1028	1028	1028	1027	1027	1026	1026	1025	1025	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024
Dry Dew Frost Snow & Ice Wet	(																								
Pavement Temp (°F) Temperature (°F) Dew Point Temp (°F) Humidity (%)	35 37 34 89	38 36 92	32 33 37 94	32 40 38 95	32 41 33 95	32 41 40 95	32 40 39 95	31 40 39 95	31 40 39 96	31 40 38 96	31 40 30 94	35 43 40 88	48 47 41 79	59 51 42 71	55 43 64	72 58 43 58	73 60 44 56	71 59 45 59	63 58 45 64	55 55 45 69	50 54 45 71	48 53 44 71	46 51 43 72	44 51 42 73	43 50 43 74

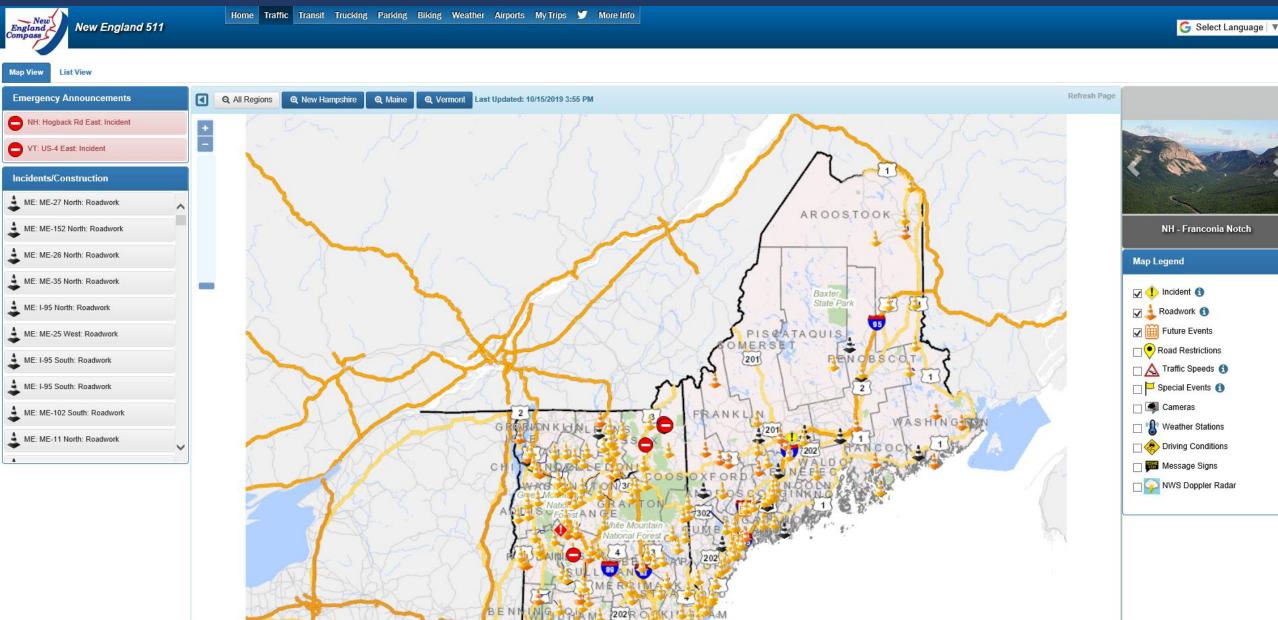


## September 4 - September 10, 2021 24 Total Stops

Row Labels	Count of Stop Type					
Disabled - Unknown	6					
Flat Stall - Changed	2					
Flat Stall - No Spare	)	2				
Lost Motorist	1					
MVA - PD	3					
MVA - PI		1				
Road Debris		3				
Stopped Vehicle - O	6					
Grand Total	24					



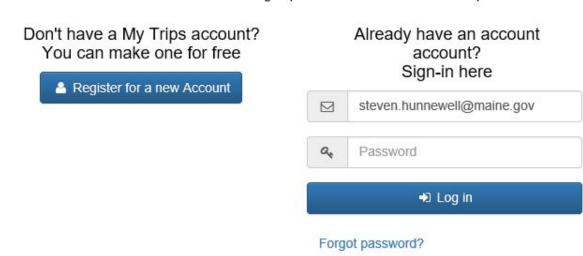
# New England 511





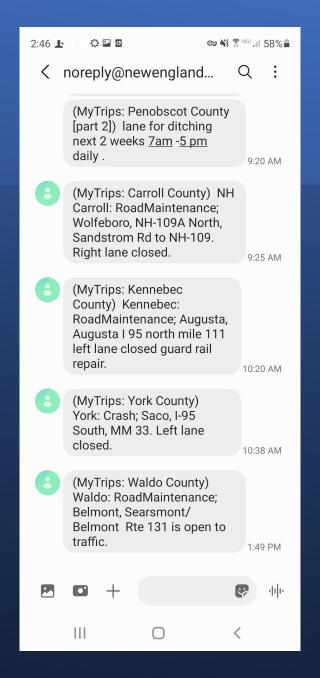
## Welcome to My Trips

This service allows users to sign up for automatic email and text trip alerts.





Yes



Transportation
Management
Center
207-624-3339