



Policy Committee Meeting
March 17th, 2026 at 1:00PM
Veazie Council Chambers and via Zoom

Agenda

1) Call to Order

2) Public Comment

Members of the public in attendance of today's meeting have an opportunity to provide public comment on today's agenda items.

3) Approval of February 17th, 2026 BACTS Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

4) BACTS Monthly Report (Attachment B)

**5) BACTS' 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
Staff Report**

All federally funded projects must be in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to receive federal funding. These projects are located in the BACTS area and are funded with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds. BACTS must update the TIP when there is a change to any project such as funding increase or a request to add a project to the TIP. These changes must also be reflected in the MaineDOT STIP. MaineDOT must receive the BACTS Policy Committee endorsement when any federally funded project has a major scope change or cost increase or when MaineDOT wishes to add a project to the STIP. All TIP amendments must be posted to the BACTS website for a 10-day public comment period.

At the February meeting the Policy Committee authorized BACTS staff to post the 2026-2029 BACTS TIP for a 10-Day public comment period (per the Public Participation Plan). No comments were received so the 2026-2029 BACTS TIP will be presented for final approval. A copy of the final 2026-2029 TIP can be found [here](#).

Proposed Action: Approve 2026-2029 BACTS TIP.

**6) 2027 Unified Planning Work Program Local Match
Staff Report**

Staff will lead discussion regarding calculation for the 2027 local match for members.

Proposed Action: Approve funding formula for 2027 local match.

7) SS4A Update

Draft Safety Action Plans for each BACTS member have been shared with town staff. We are looking to receive feedback in the next few weeks. Each plan outlines a reporting process for future safety evaluation. Staff would like to understand what, if any, role BACTS should play in this process.

***A list of common BACTS Acronyms can be found [here](#).**

Proposed Action: For discussion only.

8) Transit Updates

Staff and the Community Connector will provide updates on transit studies, operations, or other transit related items.

Proposed Action: For discussion only.

9) Project Updates

Members will provide updates on BACTS funded construction projects in the region.

Proposed Action: For discussion only.

10) MaineDOT Report

MaineDOT staff will provide an update on any MaineDOT projects, policies, or plans.

Proposed Action: For discussion only.

11) Other Business

Discussion of other items not on today's agenda.

12) Upcoming Meetings

Policy Committee - April 21st, 2026 at 1PM - Old Town Council Chambers or virtually via Zoom
Penobscot Climate Action Committee - April 14th, 2026 at 2PM via Zoom



Attachment A
Policy Committee Meeting
February 17th, 2026 at 1:00PM
Milford Council Chambers and via Zoom
Minutes

Committee Members	Affiliation
Dave Teelon Laurie Linscott	Bangor
Melissa Doane	Bradley
Linda Johns	Brewer
Amy Ryder-Johnson Victor Smith	Hampden
Stephen Fields	Hermon
Mike Gladu	Milford
Earl Labonte EJ Roach Adam Smart	Orono
Mark Leonard	Veazie
MaineDOT / FHWA	
John Theriault, Claire Winter	

- 1) **Call to Order**
Meeting was called to order by Amy Ryder-Johnson at 1:00PM.
- 2) **Public Comment**
No public comments at this time.
- 3) **Approval of January 20th, 2026 BACTS Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**
No comments on the minutes, Linda Johns made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Stephen Fields seconded, roll call vote taken, all in favor.
- 4) **BACTS Monthly Report**
Belle Ryder provided an overview of the report. Belle Ryder mentioned to the group that Dakota Hewlett from MaineDOT has provided information for various funding opportunities for 2026.
- 5) **Culvert Inventory and Assessment**
BACTS Staff provided a presentation on the culvert inventory and assessment and presented the online application members can use to view the culverts in their area. Members discussed various features of the application and future recommendations from this project including but not limited to potential grants, that this information could potentially be used to be applied for.
- 6) **Performance Measures and Targets**
Federal Highway Performance Measures and Targets
Staff Report

In 2016, the Federal Highway Administration implemented the final rule on the Highway Safety Improvement Program, requiring State DOT's and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to develop safety performance targets, to be published annually. MPOs establish Highway Safety Improvement Program Targets by either: 1. Agreeing to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of the State DOT safety target(s); or 2. Committing to quantifiable safety targets for the metropolitan planning area.

Proposed Action: *Adopt the State Performance Targets and Agree to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of MaineDOT's PM-1 Safety Performance Targets, PM-2 Pavement and Bridge Condition Performance Targets, and PM-3 System Performance and Freight Performance Targets.*

Belle Ryder provided an overview, including a small update of information from MaineDOT. Linda Johns made a motion to approve the action as written, Stephen Fields seconded, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

7) BACTS' 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Staff Report

All federally funded projects must be in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order to receive federal funding. These projects are located in the BACTS area and are funded with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds. BACTS must update the TIP when there is a change to any project such as funding increase or a request to add a project to the TIP. These changes must also be reflected in the MaineDOT STIP. MaineDOT must receive the BACTS Policy Committee endorsement when any federally funded project has a major scope change or cost increase or when MaineDOT wishes to add a project to the STIP. All TIP amendments must be posted to the BACTS website for a 10-day public comment period.

BACTS Staff have been coordinating with MaineDOT regarding project lists received. These lists and any potential errata sheet updates are currently being reviewed.

Once BACTS Staff and MaineDOT have had a chance to review the project lists, we would request approval for the following:

- Amend the current 2025-2028 TIP to include the FHWA and FTA project list proposed for the 2026-2029 TIP, and associated errata sheet, once reviewed by Staff. This allows all 2026 projects to be authorized at their current level of funding, with updated information, prior to the 2026-2029 STIP/TIP approval. This amendment will be posted for a 10-Day comment period.
- Post the 2026-2029 BACTS TIP for a 10-Day public comment period (per the Public Participation Plan).

Once the comment period has ended, Staff will make any necessary changes to the draft TIP. The Policy Committee will review and approve the 2026-2029 BACTS TIP at the March Policy Committee meeting. This proposed schedule is subject to change, any changes will be communicated to the Committee.

Proposed Action 1: *Authorize BACTS Staff to post the proposed TIP amendment once the listing is reviewed by BACTS Staff and MaineDOT, for a 10 day public comment period. So long as no substantial public comment is received as part of the public comment period, authorize Staff to submit the TIP Amendment to MaineDOT once the public comment period has ended.*

Proposed Action 2: *Authorize BACTS Staff to post the draft 2026-2029 BACTS TIP (pending no substantive changes during final review with MaineDOT Staff) for a 10-Day public comment period.*

Belle Ryder provided an overview and Claire Winter provided additional background information on the process.

Mark Leonard made a motion to approve proposed action 1 as written, Stephen Fields seconded, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

Stephen Field made a motion to approve proposed action 2 as written, Mark Leonard seconded, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

8) BACTS Regional Signal Pilot Program

Staff Report

MaineDOT has proposed a pilot program (WIN 28414.00) to provide a \$2,500 annual stipend per traffic signal to the BACTS region. This agreement shifts certain administrative and coordination responsibilities to BACTS while providing much-needed funding to municipalities to meet the goals of the 2018 MaineDOT Mobility Report.

***Proposed Action 1:** Authorize the Executive Director to finalize negotiations and execute the Agreement with MaineDOT provided no substantial changes are made to the Agreement.*

***Proposed Action 2:** Formally ratify the obligations of the member municipalities as outlined in Section D and E of said Agreement.*

Belle Ryder provided an overview, she has worked closely with the affected communities to discuss the structure of the proposed agreement. Members of the group discussed which signals are included in the agreement.

Stephen Field made a motion to approve proposed actions 1 and 2 as written, Mark Leonard seconded, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

9) Transit Updates

Laurie Linscott provided an update. Budget season has begun and service levels remain consistent with prior updates.

10) Project Updates

Members provided updates on projects across the region.

11) MaineDOT Report

Claire Winter notified the group that the workplan has been published and to contact her with any questions.

12) Other Business

Members of the group discussed a previous agenda item briefly for additional clarification.

13) Upcoming Meetings

Penobscot Climate Action Committee - April 14th, 2026 at 2PM via Zoom

Policy Committee - February 17th, 2026 at 1PM - Milford Council Chambers or virtually via Zoom

The meeting was called to adjourn by Victor Smith, seconded by Linda Johns. Unanimous approval. Meeting ended at 1:50PM.



Attachment B
BACTS Monthly Report
March 2026

MaineDOT Work Plan - *The MaineDOT Work Plan outlines the work that the department plans to perform over the next three years. The Work Plan is calendar year-based and includes all MaineDOT work activities.*

Update: The final draft of the MaineDOT Work Plan has been published and is available as a layer on the MapViewer here: <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/mapviewer/> or as a PDF or Excel file here: <https://www.maine.gov/dot/major-projects/work-plan>.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) - *Traffic Incident Management (TIM) consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents; improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders; and reduces the frequency of secondary crashes. This contract focuses on the implementation of the Statewide TIM Strategic Plan recommendations, maintaining the Maine State TIM website, updating training materials, convening and facilitating TIM groups/committees, outreach to disciplines in rural areas of the state who are currently not involved with TIM groups, managing sub-consultants, and other tasks assigned and approved by MaineDOT.*

Update: Staff hosted the N. Penobscot TIMs and a Hancock and Penobscot county TIMs meeting. Staff continued coordination on TIMs training for Wells, Hancock, and Augusta. Staff attended a national northern USA TIMs trainer workshop.

Rural Contract - *BACTS receives funding annually from the MaineDOT to work with rural Penobscot County municipalities on transportation related issues and activities. BACTS staff provides transportation related technical assistance on various projects and plans such as: writing Transportation Inventory chapters for Comprehensive Plans; facilitating or aiding in grant writing and funding opportunities for trails, sidewalks, road work, or transit; providing assistance with safety audits, data collection, planning activities, or local project management; and coordinating between MaineDOT and municipalities.*

Update: Staff sent a rough draft to the town of Corinth's transportation chapter. Staff provided rural outreach to Howland, Enfield, and Millinocket. Staff also attended the statewide Bike and Pedestrian meeting. Lastly, staff met with the trail coordinator of the Clifton Climbers Alliance to discuss their Maine Trails grant.

Culvert Inventory - *This UPWP project will provide BACTS members with current condition assessments of culverts in the Greater Bangor Urbanized Area. This inventory will offer a comprehensive evaluation of all identified road-crossing, non-box culverts and collect additional data to analyze climate projections and their impact on stormwater hazards. The inventory currently includes 500+ known culverts and will serve as the foundation for future project phases.*

Update: Staff presented Phase II at the February Policy Committee Meeting while also providing follow-up to attendees who were not present. Staff has also adjusted the GIS Experience viewer to have improved user interface. Staff began researching for Phase III.

Traffic Signal Master Plan Support - *MaineDOT has proposed a pilot program that will augment resources of the BACTS region to advance the goals of the 2018 Mobility Report. The Mobility Report found the following: properly working signals increase mobility, reduce congestion, save time, money, and fuel, and enhance economic opportunity; properly timed signals can reduce crashes by up to 30%; and, MaineDOT*

should partner with all communities across Maine to maintain traffic signal controllers and traffic signal detection systems.

Update: Staff is working with MaineDOT to finalize the contract. Concurrent with the administrative effort, BACTS staff is also building an app to collect annual maintenance data.

Road Condition Inventory - Annually, by August 1st the MPO will return up to 10% of the HCP 3 & 4 mileage in their network as prioritized candidates for the year after next (i.e. August 2026 provides candidates for paving in 2028). Eligible mileage will not include Light Capital Paving (LCP) program roadways.

Update: BACTS staff is working with the Vialytics platform to customize it for HCP 3 & 4 collection. BACTS staff will do some testing of the platform during the winter months but collection of data for the HCP 3 & 4 paving program will not begin until April 2026.

Meetings and Conferences

- MaineDOT Rural Contract Coordination Meetings
- Talking TIMs Webinar Series
- National FHWA Northern USA TIM Trainer Workshop
- N. Penobscot TIMs
- Penobscot & Hancock County Joint TIMs
- Maine Bike & Pedestrian Group
- Millinocket Rural Outreach
- Enfield & Howland Outreach with MaineDOT
- Clifton Climbers Alliance Grant Meeting
- PTAC meeting
- SS4A Monthly Meeting
- MTA Meeting
- PCA Working Group Meetings
- MAINECAN Meetings
- GBRERC meeting
- MPO Directors Meeting
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Traffic Signal Maintenance Stipend Meetings

2026-2027 UPWP Budget and Project Updates

BACTS 2026-2027 UPWP
As of 2/28/2026

						Contract to Date Trend			Forecasted Trend (Projected Figures)					24 Total
						Actual % Usage	Amount Should be as of 02/28	Variance	Total Remaining (Less In Kind)	Salary	Consultant	Direct Expenses	Estimated Remaining	2 Months into contract
Task	Project	Total Allotted	Total Spent	In-Kind	Total Remaining	8.3%								22 Months left in contract
FHWA														
1	Operation and Coordination	\$364,056	\$21,039	\$0	\$343,017	5.8%	\$30,338	\$9,299	\$343,017	\$315,181	\$0	\$20,750	\$7,087	
2	Programming	\$40,850	\$1,542	\$0	\$39,308	3.8%	\$3,404	\$1,862	\$39,308	\$40,458	\$0	\$139	-\$1,289	
3	Data and Studies	\$392,700	\$5,351	\$0	\$387,349	1.4%	\$32,725	\$27,374	\$387,349	\$257,413	\$65,000	\$19,500	\$45,436	
4	Planning	\$382,880	\$5,989	\$0	\$376,891	1.6%	\$31,907	\$25,918	\$376,891	\$96,489	\$225,000	\$2,239	\$53,163	
Total FHWA		\$1,180,486	\$33,921	\$0	\$1,146,565	2.87%	\$98,374	\$64,453	\$1,146,565	\$709,542	\$290,000	\$42,628	\$104,396	
FTA														
1	Operation and Coordination	\$57,746	\$11,551	\$2,310	\$43,885	20.0%	\$4,812	-\$6,739	\$35,108	\$39,617	\$0	\$749	-\$5,259	
2	Programming	\$7,531	\$1,139	\$228	\$6,165	15.1%	\$628	-\$511	\$4,932	\$4,417	\$0	\$22	\$493	
3	Data and Studies	\$149,844	\$846	\$169	\$148,828	0.6%	\$12,487	\$11,641	\$119,062	\$28,345	\$125,000	\$275	-\$34,558	
4	Planning	\$42,289	\$13,857	\$2,771	\$25,661	32.8%	\$3,524	-\$10,332	\$20,529	\$50,492	\$11,932	\$276	-\$42,171	
Total FTA		\$257,410	\$27,393	\$5,479	\$224,539	10.64%	\$21,451	-\$5,942	\$179,631	\$122,872	\$136,932	\$1,322	-\$81,495	
Total		\$1,437,896	\$61,313	\$5,479	\$1,371,104	4.26%	\$119,825	\$58,511	\$1,326,196	\$832,414	\$426,932	\$43,950	\$22,901	

*The following are provided are DRAFT figures at this time for budgetary consideration only.

Staff will provide a monthly report on task order assignments and status. All firms were selected through the GCA process, unless noted.

Project	Description	Consultant	Estimated Time Frame
Culvert Inventory - Phase 2	Produced a document denoting the location of existing and planned culverts in the Greater Bangor urbanized area on collector roads and gaps that should be addressed as flooding risks grow in terms of regional importance.	Stillwater Environmental Engineering*	Completed
GIS Mentorship	This contract provides GIS mentorship services that combine formal training on GIS fundamentals, one-on-one mentorship, and hands-on support for project completion. The goal is to build internal GIS capacity by equipping staff with both technical skills and practical experience through guided project work. Anticipated projects include, but are not limited to, Esri Story Maps, ArcGIS Dashboards, and GIS-based inventory maps.	Sebago Technics	November 2025 - November 2026
Active Transportation Advisor	This contract provides an expert, third-party review of the draft active transportation network and facility recommendations, ensuring they are technically sound, achievable within local and regional constraints, and consistent with national design guidance and MaineDOT standards.	James Tassé Consulting*	November 2025 - June 2026

*This firm was selected using an RFP process.