

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2004

PRESENT:	Bill Reed, Chair	Sue Morse, BACTS
	Dale Doughty, MDOT	David Struck, Orono
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	Stan Moses, Bangor
	Janis Piper, MDOT	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Kate Weber, Bangor	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Don Cooper, BACTS	Jim Ring, Bangor
	John Lord, Old Town	John Noll, EMDC
	Sarah Dubay, BACTS	Jerry Douglass, MDOT
	Sandi Duchesne, BACTS	Jonathan Daniels, EMDC

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met Wednesday, February 25, 2004 at 9:30am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine.

John Lord, Policy Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. Stan Moses made a motion to approve the January 20, 2004 Policy Committee meeting minutes. David Struck seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REVIEW/CONTRACT

John Lord stated that the BACTS Personnel Committee has recommended that Rob Kenerson's contract be extended for another year. A motion was made to endorse the committee's recommendation that Rob Kenerson's contract be extended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BACTS BOUNDARY

This issue will be discussed at the next meeting. Information about a funding formula was not received from MDOT. So, before asking towns to include extra portions of roadways, for instance, including all of Stillwater Avenue and Route 178, Rob Kenerson wanted to provide them with more concrete numbers.

LONG RANGE PLAN UPDATE

BACTS staff reviewed what has been completed in the process. Since December, a technical update has been submitted to MDOT tech up date, and a general plan meeting and individual mode meetings were held in January and early February to discuss existing conditions and receive public comments. Rob Kenerson commended Stan Moses being a policy committee representative at most of the meetings. Several public comments were received during this process largely due to the marketing campaign. The Long Range Plan update was discussed on the news, television, radio, and in print media. At this meeting, BACTS staff wants to discuss what should the regional transportation vision be for the next twenty years, review the goals and objectives for the BACTS area for the next twenty years, and evaluate the validity of public comment.

Twenty Year Vision for the BACTS Area

Committee agreed with what has been written for BACTS vision statement however they wish to include safety.

Long term goals

- 1. Fiscal Responsibility:** Committee okay with what is written as they amended to what they wanted the document to say at the July 2003 meeting.
- 2. Economic Prosperity and Livability:**
 - Intermodal connections – include passenger rail to Portland, no air links or fare links to Portland, can take transit to Portland. Need to improve connectivity to Boston metro area.

- Traffic flow to Portland exceeds traffic flow to points north as listed
 - Weight limits – this is a safety issue. Should also bring this bullet into the safety section
 - Access management – last bullet. Could also be listed under safety.
- 3. Safety and Security:**
- Establish closer working relationships with local police departments and Homeland Security Administration. Better working relationship would create better enforcement of transportation laws and we could use their comments for planning purposes.
 - Because of our lack of redundancy, there are a number of block points. If these points were blocked, then we have no other way out...All movement could be control, stopped, no economic movements, etc. “2-exit strategy”
- 4. Public-Private Partnership and Coordination:**
- Intermodal connection for freight in Bangor Area – not economically feasible.
 - Take out word freight and just have rail transportation. Keep bullet. At bare minimum, preserve rail corridors.
 - Second bullet: words in parenthesis encourage or support sprawl. Need to be included in Environmental stewardship or reworded for this section.
 - Committee struck out words from parenthesis. Take those words and include them under environmental stewardship.
 - Dale Doughty mentioned that some of the MDOT ones are written as recommendations not goals. Rewrite so it doesn't start with MDOT – put “seek to integrate access management” etc. Make it a BACTS goal, not a MDOT recommendation. Makes them more parallel to other goals and doesn't limit the goal to just MDOT.
 - Include recommendation to MDOT to develop more expertise in land-use planning, so that when they review community comprehensive plans that they can make a meaningful representation of what land-use is on transportation. (Included under partnerships)
 - MDOT is creating a guide about this for communities.
- 5. Environmental and Customer Oriented:** Okay as written

Discussion of Public Comment: Staff members who conducted the individual mode meeting each discussed the top comments from their meetings with the committee. Each committee member received a bullet list of comments, and these comments were open for discussion.

- **Transit:** Had two meetings on January 21, 2004 – one at Bus Depot, one at EMDC.
 - Several of these items have been discussed over the years. We need to have an ongoing evaluation of these services.
 - Marketing: Work better with local channels. Signage is also an issue.
 - Security: Brought up at both meetings and also has been mentioned several times. This is a continual public comment. City of Bangor is addressing.
 - Traffic signals: Signal pre-emption preference for transit vehicles – quicker route than driving yourself.
 - More motorists are commuting in from outside of the urban region. Need to create a system to for those motorists to interface with the transfer transit system. Commuter lots, Park and Rides. More opportunities for these.
 - These exist currently but need to be signed better.
- **Bike/Ped:** Had evening meeting at EMDC. About 30 participants.
 - Was there representation from a mountain bikers group? City of Bangor has found that this group has a different attitude than other bikers. They do use city streets to make connections to mountain biking areas.
 - Discontent between bikers and walkers.
 - Neighborhood connectivity: Creating public easements between neighborhoods.
 - Towns have concerns with liability issues – what is public and what is private.

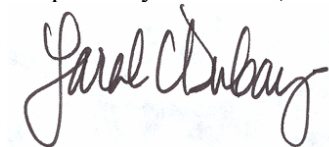
- Any discussion from skaters? Only one comment.
- NOWs – any discussion about using public infrastructure (walking in schools in the winter, etc.)? No, but should be included.
- School encouragement of cycling clubs and activities
- Any discussion about formal trail systems? Veazie Railroad trail, East/West Greenway? Yes, people loved them, want more of them. Where they are appropriate, people want more of those types of trails.
- Encourage MDOT to increase monies for Bike/Ped facilities improvements.
- Mark shoulders for bicycle usage
- **Freight:** Had evening meeting at EMDC. Low meeting attendance.
 - Need to do a new truck route study
 - BIG Grant (Boat Infrastructure Grant): Currently, City of Bangor is pursuing this grant. Would use funds for heavy vessel dock suitable for larger privately owned vessels, cruise ships. New floating dock would be located near French Street – proposed intermodal facility. Would be ADA accessible.
 - Communities have issues when trying to run utilities under rail lines. Coordination of utilities in rail corridors.
 - Also, communities have crossing issues – need a better working relationship as modes need to work together. Better access at rail crossing for other modes of traffic.
 - Legislative support
 - State is a system of individual modes. Need mode coordination.
 - How much money for maintenance on heavy haul route?
- **Roadways/Traffic Signals:** Had evening meeting at EMDC. About 20 participants.
 - Several of these comments are being currently addressed in studies or by other BACTS Committees..
 - Interstate capacity – where will it be in 20 years? Will be addressed with MDOTs Interstate Study. Included in 2006 BTIP.
 - Connectivity/Circulation
 - Noise from Interstate
 - Increased funding for maintenance

At the March 16 Policy/Technical Committee meeting, BACTS Staff will discuss the draft final with the committee. From there, the draft final will be distributed in communities for public comments. A draft final public will be held and then the document will need final approval from Policy Committee

The next meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, March 16, 2004*** at 9:30am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the draft final of the BACTS Long Range Plan Update. A copy of the draft final will be provided to committee members on March 9, 2004.

John Lord made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Ring seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Dubay
BACTS, Administrative Assistant