

# Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes *March 16, 2004*

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Kate Weber, Bangor	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Jim Ring, Bangor	John Lord, Old Town
	Stan Moses, Bangor	Don Cooper, BACTS
	John Noll, EMDC	Jerry Douglass, MDOT
	Catherine Conrow, Orono	David Struck, Orono
	Charlie Heinonen, Old Town	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Sandi Duchesne, BACTS	Sue Morse, BACTS
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	Sarah Dubay, BACTS
	Bill Reed, Veazie	

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy and Technical Committee met Tuesday, March 16, 2004 at 9:30am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine.

John Lord, Policy Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. Jim Ring made a motion to approve the February 25, 2004 Policy and Technical Committee meeting minutes. David Struck seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Introductions were made of the committee members.

## **BACTS BOUNDARY**

Rob handed out copies of “Summary of the BACTS Route 178 and Stillwater Avenue Addition Scenarios”. The summary detailed what the difference in vehicle mileage totals (VMT) and funding totals would be if pieces of Route 178 and Stillwater Avenue are added. MaineDOT has decided to increase funding if the routes are added. MaineDOT funding increases were decided by population and VMT. Rob illustrated what the additions would be on the BACTS boundary map – an additional 3.25 miles on Stillwater, and an additional 4.75 miles on Route 178. The original BTIP is around \$3.9 million. If Route 178 is added, BACTS would receive another \$50,900 in funding per biennium. If Stillwater Avenue is added, BACTS would receive another \$50,988 in funding per biennium. Overall, if both roadways are added BACTS would receive an extra \$102,888 in funding per biennium.

David Struck asked if the section of Stillwater Avenue would have to be included in urban compact boundary if BACTS included it in its boundary. Currently, the urban compact boundary is at I-95. If the additional portion of Stillwater Avenue is included in the urban compact boundary, then the town of Orono would have to maintain all of Stillwater Avenue and this would add a lot of road miles. The general consensus from the Policy Committee was that even if all of Stillwater Avenue was included in the BACTS boundary, it would not be included in the urban compact boundary and the state would still be responsible for maintaining Stillwater Avenue. Stan Moses asked if MaineDOT considers those routes as our planning area even if we do not add them to our boundary. Jerry Douglass responded by saying that yes, MaineDOT sees it as our study area. If we include the two new route sections, we would receive additional BTIP monies and PL funds. There was considerable discussion among committee members about the area of Stillwater Avenue to be included.

John Lord stated that he feels the committee needs to respect the Town of Orono’s decision whether or not they want to include Stillwater Avenue, as they will be responsible for paying a fifteen percent share to maintain it. David Struck said that from a standpoint of reconstruction costs, paying for a fifteen percent share will cost the Town of Orono a lot more than what they will gain from MaineDOT. The

Town of Orono will lose out on other projects, as will other communities' projects in the BACTS area due to the great need for reconstruction on the possible added section of Stillwater Avenue. From a planning standpoint, it makes sense to include it as it is beginning to grow – but this is not an issue because it is already included in planning area. Catherine Conlow requested that the Town of Orono be granted another month to research the benefits/non-benefits of including Stillwater Avenue. Jerry Douglass said that MaineDOT wants an answer as soon as possible, but he will take Orono's request back to his superiors for their decision.

**Motion:** John Lord made a motion that the Towns of Eddington and Bradley are contacted regarding what their decision would be about adding Route 178 to the BACTS boundary and that the Town of Orono is given time to assess benefits or lack of adding a portion of Stillwater Avenue. The motion was seconded by Kate Weber.

- **Discussion:** Jerry Douglass asked how much time the Town of Orono would need to make their decision. John Lord suggested a time period of two weeks. Catherine Conlow agreed to a time period of two weeks.

### **TRANSIT TIP AMENDMENT**

Don Cooper requested that the committee amend the FY 2004-2006 TIP to align with the availability of federal funds and the Transit budget FY04, which included new routes.

**Motion:** John Lord made a motion to accept amendment as proposed. Jim Ring seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **LONG RANGE PLAN DRAFT REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

Drafts of the Long Range Plan were sent to the Policy and Technical Committees prior to the meeting. The purpose of this discussion is to make changes to the plan before a draft final is presented to the public. Rob Kenerson explained the draft final distribution plan and upcoming public comment period for the draft final. John Lord commented to the committee that municipalities should make specific municipal comments outside of today's meeting – today's meeting should be used to address major issues of BACTS policy.

The Policy and Technical Committees comments were as follows:

#### **Chapter 3 – Goals and Objectives**

- Okay as discussed last meeting

#### **Chapter 11 – Recommendations and Implementation**

- **LAND USE:**
  - John Lord commented that it was very appropriate to include land use planning in the Long Range Plan. The whole region is in a total vacuum in terms of regional land use planning, there is no forum to deal with land use and development issues in the urban area. This issue is something BACTS needs to tackle.
  - Stan Moses asked if town comprehensive plans go through PVCOCG. John Noll answered that yes, growth management laws require their approval. However, BACTS does not have to review these. There is no land use and transportation planning cooperation. Stan commended BACTS for wanting to increase that BACTS land use policy expertise.

- The committee wants to include recommendation that PVCOC have BACTS review comprehensive plans to coordinate land use planning efforts in BACTS region.
    - Included new voting members – if mode receives transportation dollars, they must be included in this process according to TEA-21.
  - **PUBLIC TRANSIT:**
    - Stan Moses observed that the recommendation for service to coast presents several different options.
      - Don Cooper explained that is why the recommendation was kept very vague.
    - Stan Moses said that the recommendation for sidewalks on all bus routes seems unnecessary along more rural areas of the bus route.
  - **HIGHWAY NETWORK:**
    - Alternative access route to Bangor Mall will probably be included with state's I-95 study to see if it necessitates adding another lane to I-95.
    - Will probably need another Stillwater Avenue study in the next five years.
    - Jim Ring would like to see estimated cost of all of the recommendations from Study Recommendations Appendix. Catherine Conlow wanted to know how many of these recommendations have already been implemented.
    - Kate Weber said that BACTS needs to address the dichotomy of commercial growth and keeping residential areas residential on corridors such as Stillwater Avenue, Wilson Street, etc... Trying to balance both concerns creates sprawl, and there is nothing wrong with having more concentrated commercial areas. It creates more traffic and congestion – but it is concentrated in certain areas that have been planned for the intensity.
      - This addresses the importance of access management and how we plan for it on our major arterials in the future.
      - Teaching people about sprawl is addressed under Chapter one recommendations
      - Need to create compact development in communities – people can work, shop, etc in one area with transit service available without having to get into a car.
    - A committee member asked if previous studies dealt with accessing Stillwater Avenue/Mall Area coming from the Route 15 area. Currently, there is a not a direct route and traffic is scattered all over the residential area. Traffic needs to be channeled to the mall in a better fashion.
    - Jim Ring commented on truck weight limits and said that if committee members had not yet read the draft report from MDOT on truck weight limits, they should take the time to read it.
      - Committee as a whole feels more optimistic about this issue.
    - Stan Moses commented on access management - do towns have enough expertise to plan for their own access management?
      - Charlie Heinonen said that BACTS should take a leadership role in this area. Change recommendation: BACTS will proactively assist towns. MDOT will also assist in this process.
  - **BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN:**
    - Use of state interstate funds on overpasses – state currently does not use all of their interstate funds and can use funds on overpasses for example, adding a sidewalk to Hogan Road overpass.
  - **AIR/RAIL/FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION:**
    - Stan Moses asked why should there be an intermodal facility at airport - do that many tourists fly into Bangor. His concern is why Bangor is seen as the epicenter for tourism to Bar Harbor and Downeast.
      - Airport also marketing themselves to other tourist centers such as Sugarloaf, Moosehead, Millinocket.

- Also, airport is close to interstate – can coordinate well with bus etc.
  - Jim Ring asked if Guilford of Maine had been approached with seconded recommendation under rail. He feels it makes sense, but does not know what Guilford's attitude would be.
  - Elevated Bridge – should be listed as study as to determine probability and validity (M-2).
- **FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**
  - Jim Ring requested that third bullet read “will continue to optimize capacity using TDM and TSM” and delete rest of sentence.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Copies of the Long Range Plan will be provided for the Policy and Technical Committee by March 29, 2004. Copies of the plan will be available in paper format or on CD. Municipalities may email or call BACTS to request a paper or electronic version. The Long Range Plan will also be available online at [www.emdc.org/bacts.htm](http://www.emdc.org/bacts.htm)

The next meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, May 18, 2004*** at 9:30am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine. 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