

# Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

## Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

### *April 20, 2004*

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Frank Higgins, City of Brewer	Sue Morse, BACTS
	Charlie Heinonen, City of Old Town	Sandi Duchesne, BACTS
	Rob Kenerson, BACTS	David Struck, Town of Orono
	Jim Ring, City of Bangor	Kyle Jackson, MaineDOT
	Harold Kroll, City of Brewer	Bob Osborne, Town of Hampden
	Sarah Dubay, BACTS	

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Technical Committee met Tuesday, April 20, 2004 at 9:30am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine.

Jim Ring, Technical Committee Chair, called the meeting to order. David Struck made a motion to approve the January 7, 2004 Technical Committee meeting minutes. Frank Higgins seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Introductions were made of the committee members.

#### **FY 2006-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SUBMISSION**

Rob Kenerson introduced Kyle Jackson from MaineDOT's Bureau of Planning. Kyle is attending today's Technical Committee meeting to talk with the committee about MaineDOT's project scoping perspective and how MaineDOT can work with BACTS on the upcoming BTIP. Recently, MaineDOT has been working to enhance the project scoping process and would like to help MPOs to apply the new scoping process to their projects.

Rob explained how MaineDOT and BACTS have worked on scoping projects in past – conducting a “windshield survey” of proposed projects. Kyle said that MaineDOT plans to follow the same process again this summer as it allows MaineDOT to take more time with the MPOs and their local municipalities. Jim Ring asked when MaineDOT planned on doing the windshield survey in the BACTS region. Kyle did not believe it would be done any sooner than July or August. Rob Kenerson asked that a MaineDOT Region 3 employee be included on the windshield survey to comment on drainage and maintenance issues. Kyle replied that MaineDOT does plan to include a MaineDOT Region 3 employee, they are also considering holding a public meeting, doing mapping of wetlands, and researching environmental issues.

Kyle has created a BTIP database. It is his hope that this database will make municipalities more accountable about the projects they select and will help them to plan for specific details such as environment concerns, lighting, landscaping, sewage, etc.

Rob commented that from BACTS' perspective it would be more beneficial if MaineDOT could let the MPOs know what the arterial preservation projects might be earlier in the BTIP process. This would help the MPOs decide what to choose for BTIP projects and would to decide where to better use BTIP funding. In the past, MaineDOT has not informed the MPOs of possible arterial preservation projects until the last minute and then the MPOs have to scramble to resubmit arterial projects that might have been included in the state's list of projects. The

Technical Committee whole-heartedly agreed with this statement. It is hard to prioritize without knowing what the state is going to do. At times, the state has not seen a local section of an arterial as a priority; however, it might be a priority for the town and their maintenance of the roadway. BACTS could submit a list of possible arterial projects to MaineDOT. MaineDOT could see what was important to the region and then, decide from that list which arterial projects will probably not be accepted for the arterial preservation program. A committee member commented that both groups (BACTS and MaineDOT) are under budgetary constraints, and need to communicate and work together towards the best use of funding. Charlie Heinonen suggested prioritizing the list of regional arterial projects so MaineDOT could understand the impact and importance of specific arterial preservation to the municipalities.

Rob Kenerson reviewed project screening criteria as developed by the Technical Committee to remind them of the key points to consider. Jim Ring asked if the committee is still considering getting together to view all of the proposed projects during the pre-screening process. It will take some time, but he feels it is very important. Jim also asked how long after BACTS receives the list of proposed projects would BACTS need to look at the list and start pre-screening projects. Rob Kenerson answered by saying that BACTS will look at the different projects and organized the order in which the projects would be reviewed. Rob would like to start the pre-screening process at the beginning of May. Typically, the municipalities submit 12-15 projects outside of the arterial preservation program and PE projects.

The Technical Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, May 11 at 8:00am to begin the pre-screening process. BACTS will compile a list of projects and send out the lists to everyone ahead of time. Frank Higgins suggested that on May 11<sup>th</sup>, municipalities should be prepared to give a three to four minute presentation on each of their proposed projects to give everyone a general overview and understanding of the project. The members of the Technical Committee felt that this was a good idea. The committee agreed to meet for a couple of hours to hear presentations and then go out for field reviews on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Committee will meet again on Thursday, May 13, to finish up field reviews. Kyle Jackson from MaineDOT will attend the field reviews and also feels that someone from the MaineDOT Region 3 office should also be included.

Finally, Rob asked the municipalities to also include TE and Safety projects on their BTIP lists. MaineDOT typically asks for these projects outside of the MPO process, however, he would like the municipalities to submit the projects to BACTS just for BACTS' reference.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Pedestrian flashing light crosswalks should be completed by the end of June. Working with University this week, and then will be going to Bangor and Brewer.
- Don Cooper commented that the Transit TIP will include extending the airport route to outer Hammond Street and general upkeep of program. Rob Kenerson congratulated Don Cooper and Joe McNeil on being recognized by the FTA as being a "best practice" transit system.
- MaineDOT and BACTS have finalized the BACTS Boundary. The boundary does not include the proposed section of Stillwater Avenue or Route 178 in Bradley and Eddington.

***Project/Study Updates:***

- Old Town/Orono Stillwater Avenue Corridor Study is complete.
- University of Maine Transportation Study nearing completion – Gorrill-Palmer has been investigating funding options for suggestions made in the study. The study will be completed by end of June.
- Bangor Stillwater Avenue Corridor Study is also nearing completion. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday April 28, 2004, in the Bangor City Hall Council Chambers at 7pm where Gorrill-Palmer will present the study.

The next meeting will be held on ***Tuesday, May 11, 2004*** at 8:00am in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine. The purpose of the meeting will be to begin the pre-screening process for 2006-2008 BTIP projects. Charlie Heinonen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Struck seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Dubay". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sarah Dubay  
BACTS, Administrative Assistant