

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
EMDC Boardroom
Tuesday, May 18, 2004
9:30am

MINUTES

Present: Jerry Douglass, MDOT; John Perry, FHWA; John Lord, Old Town; Kate Weber, Bangor; Jim Ring, Bangor; Catherine Conlow, Orono; Linda Johns, Brewer; Frank Higgins, Brewer; Bill Reed, Veazie; Rob Kenerson, BACTS Director; Don Cooper, BACTS; Sandi Duchesne, BACTS; Sue Morse, BACTS.

1. Bill Reed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45am.
2. It was moved by John Lord, seconded by Kate Weber and unanimously VOTED:

To approve the minutes of March 16, 2004 as presented.

3. Adoption of Long Range Plan Draft

Rob Kenerson provided the Committee with the written comments received from MaineDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. He also provided a summary of the public comments received since the public hearing.

Rob explained that the Committee has 3 options at this meeting:

1. Approve the plan as presented;
2. Approve the plan with anticipated amendments; or
3. Wait for the amendments to be made, and then bring the plan back for final approval.

Bill Reed suggested that the plan be approved, with anticipated amendments. One such amendment would be inclusion of the City of Bangor's plans for tourism. Don Cooper responded that there was information in the plan addressing this, but perhaps it could be more detailed. Bill suggested the Committee defer to the City of Bangor for this.

After a brief discussion of how to move forward, Don Cooper presented the Committee with a handout of suggested "next steps." (See attached.)

At this point, John Lord suggested that it might be time for the Committee to pause and establish distance from the process. He explained that there has been much change in the last 5-10 years within BACTS, i.e. scope of what we do and number of staff. Perhaps it would be wise to bring in a consultant to review our processes and make recommendations on how to proceed into the future. Rob Kenerson answered that he is aware of some organizations conducting "peer reviews." Maybe we could

bring in another MPO to do this. He advised the Committee he would discuss this possibility with John Perry from FHWA.

Frank Higgins recognized that this document is not going to be perfect. He MOVED and it was SECONDED by Bob Osborne.

to accept the Long Range Transportation Plan as drafted.

Rob Kenerson explained that he sees this document being on every agenda as a status report. We need to put in action steps, and then report back as we do studies.

The original motion was AMENDED and SECONDED and unanimously APPROVED

to direct Rob Kenerson to provide an outline as to what steps will be taken to polish the document by the next meeting.

The motion, as amended, was APPROVED.

4. Bylaws

Rob Kenerson provided the Committee with a spreadsheet showing VMT & population, and providing a suggested distribution of votes amongst the members. He further explained that the votes assigned to the City of Bangor would include a transit representative. Votes are weighted, i.e. 1 Bangor representative would equal 4 votes. Mr. Kenerson also noted that it is important for him to know who will be appointed as voting reps.

Discussion ensued regarding quorums. There was concern with obtaining a quorum when attendance is not anticipated by certain communities. There were many suggestions for addressing this issue.

The Committee directed Rob Kenerson to develop a recommendation for bylaw amendments and bring it back to the Committee.

5. BTIP Modifications

Jim Ring explained that Bangor would like to redistribute monies assigned to 3 intersection projects approved in the last BTIP. They are:

Griffin & Ohio
Cumberland & Harlow
Hogan & Mt. Hope

There are issues with ROW on the Griffin & Ohio project and more money is need. Scopes for all 3 of these projects have changed; therefore the estimates no longer apply. The changes are outlined below.

Project	Estimated	Actual
Griffin & Ohio	\$48,000	\$98,000
Cumberland & Harlow	\$185,000	\$135,000
Hogan & Mt. Hope	\$170,000	\$150,000

John Lord moved, Frank Higgins seconded and it was unanimously VOTED

To approve the redistribution of monies as requested by the City of Bangor.

6. Technical Committee Update

Technical Committee Chair, Jim Ring, updated the Policy Committee on the recent road trip to review submitted BTIP projects. The Committee spent 2 days reviewing the projects, with input from MDOT personnel. This is part of the new BTIP review process that the Technical Committee has very hard one. Frank Higgins noted that it was very helpful and enlightening to see other's issues. Rob Kenerson noted that he would be meeting with Jim to review notes and new scopes. The submitted projects will need to be short-listed prior to sending to MDOT.

7. Other Business

Sandi Duchesne advised the Policy Committee that MDOT is offering free Share the Road signs that can be put on roads with minimal shoulder widths and high volumes. It's an attempt to bring awareness to drivers. Rob suggested that Sandi put out an email to the towns asking for a list of needs. Sandi will also check on installation and maintenance issues.

Sandi also advised the Committee that June 9 is the 10th anniversary of Commute Another Way Day. BACTS will be working in cooperation with the Bangor Region Wellness Committee and the BAT. The City of Bangor will be issuing a proclamation endorsing the event.

Jerry Douglas advised the Committee that the application deadline for enhancement projects as been extended to August. Rob Kenerson offered Sandi Duchesne and her technical expertise to the towns as they prepare applications.

Rob Kenerson noted to the Committee that this would most likely be John Lord's last meeting, as he is retiring. He & the Committee thanked John for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

There being no further business, it was moved by John Lord, seconded by Jim Ring and unanimously VOTED

to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C. Morse
Clerk Pro-tem