

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
(For Committee approval)
November 16, 2004

PRESENT:	Kate Weber, Bangor	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Jim Ring, Bangor	Bob Osborne, Hampden
	Stan Moses, Bangor	Frank Higgins, Brewer
	Dean Bennett, EMDC	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Bill Reed, Veazie	Sue Morse, BACTS
	Don Cooper, BACTS	Tammy York, BACTS
	Sandi Duchesne, BACTS	On Conference Phone: Catherine Conlow, David Struck - Orono
Public:	George Eliot, Bangor	

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met Tuesday, November 16, 2004 in the EMDC Boardroom, One Cumberland Place, Bangor, Maine. Introductions were made of the committee members.

APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Bill Reed, Policy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Frank Higgins made a motion to approve the September 21, 2004 Policy Committee meeting minutes. Jim Ring seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

MPO SELF CERTIFICATION

Rob Kenerson explained that the MPO Self Certification was required by FHWA and FTA to be renewed yearly. It used to be renewed every two years as part of the BTIP process. The five page document was faxed to Orono for their review. The certification gives Bill Reed as Chair of the Policy Committee the authority to sign off that BACTS is following regulations. The 21 page document for FTA explains in detail the regulations listed on page 5 of the MPO Self Certification.

It was moved by Jim Ring, seconded by Linda Johns and unanimously VOTED

To approve Bill Reed signing the MPO Self Certification.

DISCUSSION OF MDOT LETTER TO BACTS

Rob Kenerson discussed the letter that BACTS received from James Mansir, Project Manager for MDOT regarding the withdrawal of two BACTS projects. Due to the withdrawal of a project in Bangor at the Intersection of Stillwater Avenue and Howard Street (\$147,446) and a project of intersection improvements at Route 2 and Bosworth Street in Old Town (\$90,000), funds are available to be used at other project locations in the BACTS area. Cathy Conlow asked if these projects are scheduled to be completed in the 2004-2006 BTIP. Rob Kenerson replied yes that according to MDOT in Bangor the signal project is to be completed by the developer, but Jim Ring wants to verify this. The Old Town project has been withdrawn, because the signal was not warranted for French Island. Jim Ring said that he thought that Jim Mansir is thinking that the developer is taking care of PIN 10023, the Bangor project; however, Jim Ring thinks that the developer is actually putting in a signal at a different location. Jim Ring would like to verify the accuracy of this project withdrawal. Frank Higgins asked what MDOT was planning to do with the funds. Rob Kenerson replied that the funds are BACTS funds and stay in the

MPO. Linda Johns and David Struck asked if the funds could be added to the 2006-2008 BTIP. Rob said that he would check on this. The committee recommended that this item go to the Technical Committee for review and discussion.

FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Jim Ring updated the committee regarding the MDOT meeting with MPOs town by town. The Technical Committee will notify the Policy Committee of recommended changes as a result of MDOT's meeting with BACTS. Jim stated that he had requested maps of the proposed changes thus far and the implications for costs in terms of maintenance, and the issue of roads being upgraded to state and the state expecting municipalities to upgrade the roads before turning them over to the state. He said that MDOT did not have a timetable for a clear explanation of the impact. Jim said that there had been good attendance by municipalities at these four meetings and that he appreciated the participation. Rob Kenerson added that this should go before the Policy Committee in January/February based on the Technical Committee recommendations. Jim added that everyone needs to be comfortable with the changes and implications.

Kate Weber asked if MDOT was reviewing the whole state to which Rob and Jim replied yes. Kate wanted to know what kind of changes would take place. Jim said that he wasn't sure of the total miles, but it would be best for BACTS if we had roads that were in higher categories, but he wasn't sure if there was an overall downgrade by MDOT. He said that clearly there are some roads inappropriately designated now, and we need to make sure that our MPO does not come up short on funding. Rob said that there are roads now that may never get a project such as Elm Street in Old Town. MDOT recommended this to be a local road, not a collector.

Frank Higgins said that MDOT is being objective, BACTS is being objective, the rules are consistent across the board, overall there will be a downgrading, but the process has worked. The FHWA representative had stated at a previous meeting that Maine as a whole is "out of whack" with the rest of the nation for major collectors and minor arterials in total miles. Jim Ring agreed with Frank that this has been a lengthy process and he is appreciative of the participation. Bob Osborne said that the initial presentation of allotment of arterials for BACTS changes is not dramatic; we are close to the model. Sandi Duchesne said that we are a rural state that our roads go further, so it makes more sense that we have more arterials.

BTIP UPDATE

Rob Kenerson passed out a listing of 15 projects totaling \$7.1 million for the 2006-2008 BTIP. He said that these were estimates by Bob Raymond and the list needs to be narrowed down at the November 23rd Technical Committee meeting. David Struck asked Rob to go over the funding breakdown for each category. Rob said that it was up to the Technical Committee, but for purposed of defining the list, the following parameters were assigned to the categories.

\$300,000	Intersections
\$3 million	Reconstruction
\$1.3 million	Reclaim/Rehab
\$400,000	Resurfacing

Totaling \$5 million

Catherine Conlow asked if that meant that there were no funds for PE. Rob said that this was originally a reconstruction project that changed to PE and that it will be up to the Technical Committee to determine again how much money should be allocated to each category.

Jim Ring asked for a breakdown of the cost estimates indicating that each Technical Committee member should review them and be comfortable with the estimates. David Struck also noted that he would like a breakdown of the cost estimates. Rob Kenerson said that Jerry Douglass was incorrect in stating that MDOT will pick up any over budget on MDOT estimates.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Policy Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 29th at 9:30 am in the EMDC boardroom.

Bob Osborne asked if we were amending the current BTIP to switch Hampden money. Rob said that the Rt. 1A project in Hampden is in the 2004-2006 BTIP for the next phase of construction. DOT is going to use funds for PE on corridor to Rt. 9 and to buy rights on the corridor, which gives Hampden time to upgrade telephone and water. Rt. 1A will be submitted for consideration in the next BTIP. Jim Ring said that there could be implications for the next BTIP, if we do PE now, and construction next BTIP, what is the total construction budget for the Rt. 1A project. Sandi Duchesne and Rob commented that the project will be done in phases and Jim commented that this was quite a chunk of money to take off the BTIP.

Rob Kenerson said that Sandi Duchesne was on the television for the illuminated crosswalks and that we have received many positive comments for Brewer. He noted that College Avenue in Orono would be getting an illuminated crosswalk next spring.

Jim Ring made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank Higgins seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy York
BACTS Administrative Assistant