

# Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

## Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

### May 20, 2008

PRESENT:	Mike Laberge, MDOT	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	Dianne Rice, BACTS
	Linda Johns, Brewer	Becky Grzesik, BACTS
	Frank Higgins, Brewer	Mike Osborne, EMDC
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	Maria Weinberger, Orono
	Dana Wardwell, Bangor	Jim Ring, Bangor
	Barbara Cox	

**1. Call to Order**

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy/ Technical Committee met on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Penobscot Board Room of Eastern Maine Development Corporation, 40 Harlow St., Bangor Maine. Jim Ring called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of April 15, 2008 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

It was moved (Maria Weinberger), seconded (Frank Higgins), and unanimously voted to approve the April 15, 2008 Policy/ Technical Committee Meeting minutes as presented.

**3. Bennoch Road Update**

Last month, the joint committee agreed that a scope of work needs to be put in place and Mike would check with FHWA on the eligibility of project.

As of this month there is no new material on the Bennoch Road update, but it was agreed that the project will stay on the agenda until a scope and estimate is provided to BACTS for a vote and construction is indeed complete.

**4. Project Transfers**

There were four major Project transfers to discuss. Included in the meeting packet were copies of emails send from Mike Laberge to Rob Kenerson regarding the latter three projects.

**A. PIN 14798.00 Jefferson Street to PIN 14794.00 Stillwater Avenue**

Three weeks ago Maine DOT met with the City of Old Town about road and highway construction in the town. It was suggested to transfer the remaining moneys (approximately \$100,000) from the Jefferson Street PIN (14798.00) to the Stillwater Avenue PIN (14794.00) due to various engineering and traffic limitations at the Center St/ Jefferson St intersection. The city agreed to put up a “No Left Turn” sign on Center St. at Jefferson Street.

The Town and MDOT decided that the money could be appropriately transferred to Stillwater Avenue construction. This project transfer would become a BTIP Amendment and have to go out for public comment due to the scope of work transition.

After review from the Policy committee, it was moved (Charlie Heinonen), seconded (Frank Higgins), and unanimously *Voted to transfer all of the remaining funds from PIN 14798.00 to PIN 14794.00*

**B. PIN 8832.00 Wilson Street**

Last fall, BACTS authorized the transfer of a remaining balance from the Wilson Street PIN (8832.00) to a new Wilson Street project (13077.00). The transfer was \$ 305,904.65. Too much money was transferred and PIN 8832.00 now has a deficit of \$11,095.32. It was moved (Maria Weinberger), seconded (Charlie Heinonen), and unanimously *voted to transfer* \$11,095.32 from the BACTS holding PIN 14272.40 to PIN 8832.00

**C. PIN 10028.00 Cedar & Main to PIN 15117.00**

City of Bangor is requesting that the remaining funds for the PIN 10028.00 Main/ Cedar Intersection Improvements Project be transferred to the new PIN 15117.00 that the MDOT created for the intersection. The fund amount to date is \$210,000; the proposed transfer amount is \$200,000.

It was moved (Charlie Heinonen), seconded (Linda Johns), and unanimously *voted to move forward with the transfer of \$200,000 from PIN 10028.00 to PIN 15117.00.*

**D. PIN 14790.00 Cumberland Street to PIN 14791.00 Griffin Rd.**

As of the last review, the Griffin Road Project's funding has a deficit and the Cumberland Street project has funding left over. The City of Bangor is requesting that \$15,000 from the Cumberland Street PIN 14790.00 be transferred to the Griffin Road PIN 14791.00. The two projects will be put out to bid together.

It was moved (Bob Osborne), seconded (Frank Heinonen), and unanimously *voted to move ahead with the transfer of \$15,000 from PIN 1479.00 to PIN 14791.00*

**5. BACTS Area Bike/ Pedestrian Work Update- John Noll**

John Noll reviewed the various projects he has been working on through out the year, such as filling in the trail gaps along the Penobscot River from Bangor to Old Town. About three quarters of the river already have riverside trails, but John is continually working with the towns to accomplish completed bike and pedestrian trails. Base mapping is complete to date, but this project is foreseen as a long term project.

John applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from ME DOT to study pedestrian issues in the Four Mile Square in Hampden and the Capehart Area in Bangor.

John has also been working on various projects connected with Piscataquis County. One project is a walkability assessment in Greenville Junction and the other is an appraisal of sidewalk deficiencies in Dover-Foxcroft.

The University of Maine in Orono Bike Trail is seeking grant money to maintain upkeep for the trail's resources. The need for trail maintenance is eminent among the community as the Orono Land Trust is also involved. It was unanimously *voted that Rob Kenerson has agreed to write a letter in support for the proposal.*

Dana Wardwell asked that the committee support the projects that Bangor is submitting for the same grant as above. One project is for a sidewalk on the south side of Union St. in the Westgate Manor Area. The second project is in the Odlin Rd/ I-95 area. The last

project is a “Safe-Routes to School” Project, adjacent to the Down East School. It was unanimously *voted that Rob write support letters for these project applications.*

#### **6. BACTS Six Year Plan**

The Policy Committee reviewed the Six Year Plan handout. It was moved (Charlie Heinonen), second (Frank Higgins), and unanimously *voted to approve the projected six year plan funding by category, as listed on the handout.*

#### **7. Other Business**

There will be a Regional Open Space Meeting taking place on May 28 & 29, 2008 in the Town of Milford.

Rob informed the committee that Michael Osborne, the Director of Administrative Service, for EMDC has given his notice this week. His last day will be on June 13, 2008. Several members asked questions and about EMDC and the voiced concerns. The Policy Committee decided to take an objective analysis of the BACTS/ EMDC relationship. Charlie Heinonen suggested the formation of an executive committee (made up of five to six members) to meet within the time before the next BACTS Policy Committee Meeting (July 15, 2008) to explore the various options that are available to the organization. The committee agreed to the suggestion and approved that the issue should be updated for the next agenda. Jim Ring, Bill Reed, and Frank Higgins will work with Rob to analyze this situation.

Dianne gave an update on the success of Commute Another Way Week. By the end of the challenge over 8,000 people had participated, and had grown 25 percent from the beginning of the week. Various prizes were given away to participants, which were donated by Bagel Central and Subway; and a gas card for two hundred dollars that was given as a grand prize. Also, the local media was supportive by covering the event.

The Policy Committee reviewed the FTA: Transit Budget Breakdown sheets. It was unanimously *voted that Don Cooper would review, and then send an email to the committee about the budget breakdown to clarify queries various members had, since Don was the one working within this project. There will be action after clarification.*

The Federal Highway has a presentation on Federal Projects that they did for PACTS last March, the possibility was suggested of a date & time being implemented for the presentation to be shared with BACTS in the near future.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15a.m.