

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2008 –Approved-

PRESENT:	Jim Ring, Bangor	Anna Price, FHWA
	Peggy Duval, MaineDOT	Rob Yerxa, Orono
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	David Pardilla, Penobscot Nation
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Frank Higgins, Brewer	Victoria Burpee, EMDC
	Bill Reed, Veazie	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Dianne Rice, BACTS	Becky Grzesik, EMDC
	Don Cooper, BACTS	

1. Call to Order

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 in the Penobscot Boardroom at EMDC, 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine. Bill Reed called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

2. Approval of the November 18, 2008 Policy/Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

The Policy Committee moved (by Frank Higgins), seconded (by Jim Ring), and unanimously ***Voted: to approve the November 18, 2008 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes as presented.***

3. EMDC Update: Victoria Burpee

EMDC is in the final stages of this year’s financial audit. The process went smoothly and a completed draft should be completed by the end of the year or early January. Now that the audit is set, the invoices for October and November will be sent out by the end of this week. In the New Year, EMDC would like to explore system options for incoming and outgoing invoices. AVCOG uses the same financing system, GMS, as EMDC and they have invited EMDC to observe how they utilize the system’s components.

Vicki and the rest of the Management Team are working diligently to get systems in order even before the new president comes on board.

The Indirect Rate is still being negotiated with EDA (EMDC’s current cognizant agency), and is hoping to have a set number with in the next few months. When a new rate is settled it will become retro active to October 1, 2008. As of now, the draft budget has been presented to EMDC’s Finical Committee, and Rachel has submitted a budget to the auditors.

EMDC *may* have a CFO announcement by the end of the business day Thursday.

4. Signal Study Update

The signals on the Broadway Corridor were turned on last Tuesday. The signal sequences are still in the testing phase and are being fine tuned.

J.W. Seawall has requested a time extension on the project for reporting; there was not a request for an increase in payment.

It was moved (Jim Ring), seconded (Linda Johns), and unanimously ***Voted: to extend the BACTS & J.W. Sewall Signal Study Update to February 28, 2009.***

5. FY 2010-2011 TIP Project Discussion

The project discussion was a continuation from a previous meeting regarding the 2010-2011 TIP. There were cost estimate concerns from MaineDOT at the time. Rob suggested that side meetings should be held with towns and their individual projects. Bangor and Brewer, for example, had some suggestions and/or corrections, the cities can have a meeting to discuss these changes or work through email.

6. RFP's

Rob passed out an information packet for the three RFP's that will be sent out at the beginning of the year. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Studies that will be updated to be included in the long range plan.

Pedestrian Study Update and Bicycle Study Update

The pedestrian and bicycle sections in the current BACTS Long Range Plan are currently combined in one chapter, but Rob would like to separate them so each would have a chapter. Therefore he is recommending sending a separate RFP for each update.

There has already been some work done with the pedestrian component in the area, including Dianne's side walk inventory completed this year, John Noll working on the connection of the Penobscot River trails, Four Mile Square in Hampden, Cape Heart in Bangor, and the University of Maine's trails.

Peggy recommended saving money by combining the updates so one consultant would be selected. They would keep the chapters and public meetings separate.

There is \$25,000 available for funding the Pedestrian and Bicycle Study Updates.

Access Management Study

There is \$30,000 available for funding the Access Management Study. The UPWP states that corridor access management plans will be developed for six specific corridors in the BACTS area. The consultant will also develop sample municipal ordinance language for access management. Rob suggested that the budget is not large enough to include all six corridors.

Several members stated that the ordinance language is a priority in the project and suggested Rob develop cost estimates for the corridors to determine the number of corridors that can be studied in the project.

Rob asked the committees to give him comments on the individual projects, and he will work on cost estimates for the corridors. He will send these RFP's to the committees for approval prior to their release.

7. Alternative Funding Update

John Melrose of Maine Tomorrow, John Duncan, PACTS director, and Rob have been discussing the issues concerning urban centers in Maine, and the financing options available for transportation. John Melrose has agreed to develop a draft proposal to study these issues and Rob will bring it to the Policy Committee at the January meeting

8. Other Business

On Thursday there will be a meeting in Winterport for the stakeholders regarding the Searsport to Bangor Corridor Management Plan. The meeting will explore the various purposes and needs in the corridor, such as: highway, rail, air, land use, bike, trail, etc. John Noll will be taking the lead for the project.

Don Cooper commented that BAT program is still going well.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jim Ring moved, Frank Higgins seconded, and was it unanimously ***Voted: to adjourn the meeting at 11:00AM.***

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Rebecca Grzesik*