

**Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System**  
**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2006**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Stan Moses, Bangor	Frank Higgins, Brewer
	Duane Scott, MDOT	Bob Osborne, Hampden
	David Struck, Orono	Jim Ring, Bangor
	Charlie Heinonen, Old Town	Linda Johns, Brewer
	Don Cooper, BACTS	Bill Reed, Veazie
	Sarah Rideout, EMDC	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	David Cole, MDOT	Jonathan Daniels, EMDC
	Cathy Conlow, Orono	Janice Piper, MDOT
	Dave Pardilla, Penobscot Nation	Terry Hannan, MDOT
	Dale Doughty, MDOT	Sara Behr, MDOT
	Mike LaBerge, MDOT	Bill Croce, MDOT
	Joel Kittredge, MDOT	Ernie Martin, MDOT
	John Perry	

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 in the EMDC Boardroom, 40 Harlow St, Bangor, Maine. Bill Reed called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3, 2005 MEETING MINUTES**

Jim Ring made a motion to approve the November 7, 2005 Policy Committee meeting minutes. David Struck seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**REVISION OF TIP AND UPWP FOR TRANSIT STUDY**

Don Cooper asked the Policy Committee to amend the 2006/7 TIP to include \$20,000 of §5307 funds to carry out a transit study and to amend the 2006/7 UPWP to include a task for the study. The purpose of the study is to find ways to change the existing service, using the resources at hand, to accommodate increased ridership on the BAT. The last study was conducted in 2003 and since then ridership has shot up due, in part, to increasing gasoline prices.

Jim Ring made a motion to approve the addition of \$20,000 to the 2006/7 TIP to be allocated towards a transit study to see how the BAT may better serve the community with the resources at hand, and the amendment of the 2006/7 UPWP to include a task for the study. Charlie Heinonen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CONTRACT DATE EXTENSION OF THE BREWER MAIN STREET STUDY**

Rob asked the Policy Committee to extend the deadline for the Brewer Main Street study from the end of 2005 to June 30, 2006. There are no scope changes to the contract.

Frank Higgins made a motion to approve the contract date extension for the Brewer Main Street study. Jim Ring seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **BACTS PROJECT STATUS DISCUSSION WITH MEDOT STAFF**

The MDOT started the discussion by giving status reports for two 2006 TIP projects 1A in Hampden and Bennoch Road in Orono. The 1A project in Hampden is still in the preliminary design stage. The project has not yet been surveyed, more funding is needed from the next BTIP. Janice Piper reviewed the Bennoch Road project especially the importance of finding a balance with the public as far as giving them enough information up front so the effort to gain the right of way goes smoothly. Commissioner David Cole apologized for the delay in the Bennoch Road project.

The MDOT also outlined a new plan to help things run more smoothly between themselves and the MPOs: (1). Work Plan Management and (2). The MDOT hired a new MPO coordinator to act as a liaison between the MDOT and MPOs.

Rob began a discussion on project status tracking. He would like to have project design meetings begin again. Commissioner Cole stated the MDOT's plan for an MPO manual and also their plan for improving the MDOT accounting system. The plan is to coordinate all information systems into one user friendly interface. The public would then be able to go on line and see what's going on at the MDOT.

Jim Ring asked how this year differs from other years as far as the increase in construction costs. Commissioner Cole explained the squeeze on new construction and its long term impact; he also discussed the possibility of using bonding for increased funding.

In conclusion, the MDOT gave an update on bridge projects in the state, discussed what's going on with PACTS, and gave a review of the possible future of mass transit in Maine.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rob discussed the amendments to the project rating criteria that the technical committee was recommending. The changes need to be open to public comments for 30 days.

David Struck made a motion to approve the amendments to the rating criteria after the 30 day public period. Frank Higgins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jim Ring made a motion to adjourn. Dana Wardwell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Rideout, EMDC, assistant to the president