

**Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System**  
**Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 21, 2006 (APPROVED)**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Jim Ring, Bangor	Dale Peabody, MDOT
	David Struck, Orono	Duane Scott, MDOT
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	Tim Bolton, MDOT
	Stan Moses, Bangor	Tom Gorrill, Gorrill-Palmer
	David Pardilla, Penobscot Nation	Ralph Norwood, Gorrill-Palmer
	Linda Johns, Brewer	Jonathan Daniels, EMDC
	Tom Perry, Orono	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Irvin Smith, H.O. Bouchard	Don Cooper, BACTS
	Rick Parisien, Hartt Transportation Systems	Dianne Currie, BACTS
	Dale E. Harrington, Maine Motor Transport Assoc	Jaci Hancock, EMDC/BACTS

**1. Call to Order**

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met on Tuesday, November 21, 2006 in the Penobscot Boardroom at EMDC, 40 Harlow St, Bangor, Maine. In the absence of Bill Reed, Chair, the meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Jim Ring, Vice-Chair. At Mr. Ring's request those present introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of October 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

It was moved (Linda Johns) and seconded (David Struck) to approve the October 17, 2006 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved without revision.

**3. Proposed By-law Revision, Second Vote**

Rob Kenerson presented the proposed revision to the BACTS by-laws that would permit the Policy and/or Technical Committee(s) to vote on emergent matters via electronic mail in certain situations for the required second vote prior to adoption. It was moved by David Struck and seconded by Linda Johns to approve the proposed revision. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Information on Adjustment to Bennoch Road PIN**

David Struck informed the committee that, per the suggestion of MDOT, the two PINS that had comprised the Bennoch Road project have been consolidated into one PIN (13079.00) and all funds have been transferred into that PIN from PIN 11578.00. No public notice or committee action was required to accomplish this as there was no change in the budget or scope of the project.

**5. Variable Message Signs and 2007 I-95 Project – Dale Peabody, MDOT**

Dale Peabody, MDOT, provided a brief presentation on the department's "Intelligent Transportation" efforts in the Bangor area. He advised the committee that permanent "Dynamic Message" signs will be installed at five locations along the I-95 corridor from Mile Marker 169 to 192, probably in 2008. In the meantime, portable signs will be installed in early 2007 at the designated locations (see handout). Once the permanent signs are installed the portable signs will be available for use in other locations on an as-

needed basis. Mr. Peabody also reported that MDOT is replacing the speed limit message signs that are currently installed along I-95 with updated variable speed limit message signs.

#### **6. Discussion of Highway Priority Projects**

Rob Kenerson brought it to the attention of the Committee that it is time to begin to work on the creation of a list of priority projects, with known costs in excess of \$1 million, for use in discussions of needs in the BACTS region at the state and federal levels. As a starting point, Rob shared a preliminary list of potential projects. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that it would be helpful to have additional information on these and other potential projects from each community. To accomplish this, those most familiar with a proposed project will be asked to provide a description of the project, why it is needed and the work it entails to Rob by a date certain. Rob will work with Jim Ring to create a sample to provide guidance to committee members in responding to this task. It is anticipated that a proposed list of projects with supporting information will be presented for discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for January.

#### **7. Informational Reports:**

Dianne Currie reported on the recent HSIS (Highway Safety Informational System) Conference that she attended and participated in as a presenter. David Struck reported on the AMPO Conference that he and Rob Kenerson attended. David noted that the conference provided an excellent opportunity to interact with representatives of other MPO's. He also reported that the evolution of the federal funding process was a topic of some discussion and debate at the conference. Most present at the conference agreed that MPO's needed to take more responsibility for prioritization and long-term planning as the federal government's role continues to dwindle. This is perceived by some as an opportunity to shift the paradigm from top down to more appropriate "bottom up" planning and prioritization. Others expressed concern about the reliability of federal funding in the future.

#### **8. Truck Route Study Kickoff Meeting – Tom Gorrill, Gorrill-Palmer**

Following a brief break, the Committee reconvened for the Truck Route Study Kickoff meeting. As several new attendees had joined the meeting, those present introduced themselves prior to the kick-off. Tom Gorrill gave a brief presentation about the upcoming study; the scope of which comprises all federally-funded non-interstate roads within the BACTS region. Mr. Gorrill noted that the purpose of the study is to devise a proposal to improve truck routes to the extent feasible and will include proposed projects for future capital work plans. To that end, he recognized the importance of participation from members of all segments of the trucking industry and invited those present to provide input. He was invited by Rick Parisien, to ride in one of Hartt Transportation Systems' trucks to gain an understanding of the trucker's on-the-road perspective. The following was provided in response to Mr. Gorrill's solicitation for input of important issues that should be included in the study: 80,000 pound weight limit; reviewing information from prior studies, particularly the 1998 Truck Route Study; the need to involve public safety officials in the process; keeping the impact of planned landfill location changes in mind; intersection turning radius issues vis-à-vis long trucks/tankers; and the impact of the growth of the Searsport terminal.

Mr. Gorrill indicated that he expects to hold a total of three public meetings and anticipates that the study will take six months. Rob Kenerson agreed to distribute contact information among the public members to the advisory committee. Mr. Gorrill concluded by noting that his goal was to develop recommendations "that can actually be implemented".

**9. Informational Reports:**

Upon conclusion of the Truck Route Study Kickoff Meeting, the presentation of reports continued. David Pardilla provided a brief report on the meeting that he and Don Cooper recently attended concerning potential federal funding for projects on roads that connect with tribal land roads. This is still in the preliminary/exploratory stage and it is still not known whether this presents a true opportunity that will benefit the Penobscot Nation or merely result in cost shifting and an increased burden. Don Cooper noted that there were definitely interlocal issues that needed to be addressed before moving forward. Mr. Pardilla indicated that as part of this effort he has conducted a road inventory of approximately 100 additional miles of road. Another meeting is scheduled on this subject at 10:00 a.m. on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Don Cooper reported that the Public Transit Study Advisory Committee held their kick-off meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> and that the study is underway. He noted that two major issues that were raised at the kick-off, evening hours and additional service on the Old Town Route, have come up in past studies. Funding realities have, to date, stalled implementation of these proposals.

**10. Other Business**

Rob Kenerson noted that a legislative breakfast meeting has been tentatively scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>. This will provide a forum to meet with state legislators to discuss regional transportation issues of importance to BACTS communities.

Jonathan Daniels gave a brief presentation on the upcoming CEDS (Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) process and noted that EMDC will be seeking active input and continued communication throughout this process from representatives of BACTS.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaci S. Hancock