

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Joint Policy and Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2007 (APPROVED)

PRESENT:	Bill Reed, Veazie	Tom Perry, Orono
	Jim Ring, Bangor	John Robichaud, Orono
	Geoff Gratwick, Bangor	Tom Gorrill, Gorrill-Palmer
	Ted Trembley, Bangor	Ralph Norwood, Gorrill-Palmer
	Dana Wardwell, Bangor	John Melrose, Maine Tomorrow/MBTA
	Frank Higgins, Brewer	Steve Whitcomb, H.O. Bouchard
	Linda Johns, Brewer	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	Don Cooper, BACTS
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	Dianne Currie, BACTS
	Peggy Daigle, Old Town	Jaci Hancock, EMDC/BACTS

1. Call to Order

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy and Technical Committees held a Joint Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 in the Penobscot Boardroom at EMDC, 40 Harlow St, Bangor, Maine. The meeting was called to order by Bill Reed, Chair of the Policy Committee, at 9:40 a.m. At Mr. Reed's request those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of September 21, 2006 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes and January 16, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

It was moved (Charlie Heinonen) and seconded (Linda Johns) to approve the September 21, 2006 Technical Committee meeting minutes and January 16, 2007 Policy Committee meeting minutes as presented. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved without revision.

3. Presentation of "An Act to Secure Maine's Transportation Future," Legislative Proposal – John Melrose

John Melrose (Maine Tomorrow, Maine Better Transportation Association and former Commissioner, Maine Department of Transportation), gave a presentation on current efforts to draft legislation sponsored by Senator Damon (Co-Chair, Transportation Committee) that would create a mechanism to provide a mechanism for financing highway reconstruction/rehabilitation within MPOs and Urban Compact Communities. Mr. Melrose solicited and received input from committee members with respect to the proposal which he indicated is a "work in progress". Several concerns were raised by participants, including: maintaining the current financing process chain (allocation of federal funds per agreed upon formula, local selection of project(s), allocation of state funds); assuring maximum local control for ongoing prioritization of projects; and sensitivity to the way in which any designated funding to be set aside from excise taxes is handled.

4. Truck Route Study Update – Gorrill-Palmer

Tom Gorrill of Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers presented an update on the Truck Route Study that is presently being conducted. A handout containing a status update and list of next steps was distributed to committee members. Gorrill-Palmer presented a draft survey for review and comment by committee members and requested that any suggestions for additional questions be emailed to Tom Gorrill within the next two

weeks. It was the consensus of those present that, to assure input from a broad-based representation of truckers, the survey be as widely disseminated as practical. Tom Gorrill indicated that he anticipated having a draft report completed in approximately two months, which will include updated collision data, as available.

5. **I-95/I-395 Corridor Planning – Ed Hanscom, Maine DOT**

This item carried over to a future agenda pending Mr. Hanscom's availability.

6. **Adoption of Standard for Traffic Signal Controllers in the BACTS Area**

This item carried over to a future agenda pending receipt of information.

7. **High Priority List Projects**

Rob Kenerson led the committee in an exercise to designate high priority projects in the BACTS region (generally costing over \$1 million) for inclusion in Maine DOT's Long Range Plan. BACTS members selected the following six projects to be designated as High Priority for Long Range Planning purposes (in order of priority):

- A) Stillwater Avenue Bridge – Old Town (Replace and widen the bridge over the Stillwater River on Stillwater Avenue in Old Town)
- B) Route 1A – Hampden (Complete the reconstruct of Route 1A in Hampden from Hillside Drive to Western Ave/Rte 9)
- C) I-95/I-395 Interchange (Preliminary design and construction of a new interchange including flyovers)
- D) Three-way tie --
 - I-95 Corridor (Study the adequacy of the two lanes and when three lanes or an alternative will be warranted);
 - Stillwater Avenue Improvements – Bangor (Widening and improving Stillwater Avenue from the I-95 Exit 186 intersection to Chase Road); and
 - Traffic Signal Improvements (Implement recommendations from the ongoing study of regional traffic signals and develop a traffic signal operations center)

Rob also solicited input from the committee with respect to potential earmarks for the coming federal budget cycle. He noted that projects with regional benefits costing between approximately \$100,000 and \$150,000 are generally appropriate for earmark consideration.

8. **FY 2008 – 2009 BACTS Work Plan Discussion (UPWP)**

This item carried over to a future agenda due to time constraints.

9. **Other Business**

Rob Kenerson reported that JW Sewell's traffic signal study is progressing and that alterations to timing sequences along the Broadway and Union Street corridors are to be implemented pending approval by the City of Bangor and necessary advance publicity.

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaci S. Hancock