

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2007 (Approved)

PRESENT:	Bill Reed, Veazie	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Jim Ring, Bangor	Don Cooper, BACTS
	Frank Higgins, Brewer	Dianne Currie, BACTS
	Mike Laberge, Maine DOT	Jane Black, EMDC
	Bob Osborne, Hampden	
	Maria Weinberger, Orono	
	Stan Moses, Bangor	
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	
	Bill Croce, Maine DOT	
	Geoff Gratwick, Bangor	

1. **Call to Order**

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee met on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 in the Penobscot Board Room of Eastern Maine Development, 40 Harlow Street, Bangor Maine. Bill Reed, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. followed by introductions. Rob presented an update on the search for the replacement for the President's position and also informed the Committee of Sharon Anderson's resignation to pursue a career change.

2. **Approval of June 7, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes**

It was moved (Jim Ring) and seconded (Frank Higgins) to approve the June 7, 2007 Policy Committee Meeting minutes as presented. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved without revision.

3. **FY 2008-2011 BACTS TIP approval**

The 2008-2011 BACTS TIP needs the approval of the committee to put this out for public comments. Page 8 of the draft TIP shows a preliminary list of projects and on page 10, shows projects anticipated for 2008-2011. This FY 2010-2011 list can be amended. The committee may want to wait until the public comment period is over to see what comments are received and then reevaluate the list.

It was moved (Frank Higgins) and seconded (Mike Laberge) to put the draft of the TIP for the FY 2008-2011 out for public comment. Motion approved. The draft will go public on July 18, 2007 both on the website and in the newspaper.

Discussion continued after the vote with concerns about whether or not the projected projects listed for the FY 2010-2011 should actually be listed or whether the FY list should remain blank and amended at a later time. It was felt that any list done today is going to be different in two (2) years and at that time a STIP would be required whether the projects are listed or not. Some of the anticipated projects may be done by the municipalities as they may not be able to wait. By listing the projects for FY 2010-2011, does that bind BACTS to completing these and not amending the list? It may be of no benefit to list the projects.

It was moved (Jim Ring) and seconded (Charlie Heinonen) to rescind the previous motion to put the draft TIP out for public comment as written. Motion approved.

It was moved (Charlie Heinonen) and seconded (Frank Higgins) to remove the projects listed on the draft TIP for the FY 2010-2011 and then put the document out for public comment. Motion approved.

After the public comment period, Rob will be able to amend the TIP.

4. **FY 2008-2009 UPWP Task Prioritization**

Since the Federal government only appropriate 86 percent of the FY 07 allocation, MeDOT has asked BACTS to look at a UPWP budget of \$789,076 for FY 08-09 instead of our original \$978,451. Rob met with staff and they produced a spreadsheet with recommended cuts for the Policy Committee to review and make comments.

Monies for consultant studies have been cut by \$80,000 and there has been a \$112,000 cut in staff budget. There is no expectation of reduction in BACTS full-time staff hours. The cuts are costs that are more in line with Jayda Maher and John Noll's current work load.

It was requested that the 2008-2009 UPWP be brought back to the next meeting for further review.

5. **Other Business**

a. Bennoch Road project –

The Commissioner stated two (2) years ago that the money would not be transferred out of a BACTS project without Policy Committee approval. This has happened. The Bennoch Road project came in under budget and funds of \$350,000 were transferred to another PIN. There should be \$1.9 million available for this project. There may be a need for the remaining money to take care of some unexpected change orders.

Mike Leberge has not received any cooperation from finance in having these funds returned.

Rob requested approval from the committee to write a letter to the Commissioner stating that a promise was made and has been broken and that the money needs to be returned. He will also inform the Commissioner that the money may be needed to cover a change order for work that has been completed and still needs to be paid.

The motion was made (Jim Ring) and seconded (Frank Higgins) to have Rob draft and send a letter using the appropriate wording to the Commissioner regarding the money that was removed. Motion approved.

- b. I-95 from Broadway to Hogan Road
Any plans to do any work here? Work was planned for this area earlier; however, the funding ran out. This project is now going forward.
- c. Essex Street bridge –
Paving on this project is scheduled for this year (late fall). There will also be some bridge work done on the Interstate on the northbound side as a matter of safety. There will be a meeting at City Hall on July 20, 2007 to discuss projects and concerns.
- d. Next meeting
Tentative date of the next meeting is the third Tuesday of August (August 21, 2007). Jim Ring requested that the meeting begin at 10:00 rather than 9:30 as he will be attending a meeting prior to the BACTS Policy Committee.
- e. MPO's/DOT quarterly meeting
Todd Pelletier and Janice Piper will be attending this meeting. It is the consensus of the committee that although communication regarding scheduling future projects is improving, more/better communication is still needed.
- f. Bill Croce was able to get an answer regarding whether or not it is beneficial to list the projects for FY 2010-2011 in the draft TIP. It can be done either way as an amendment will be needed to either add projects or remove projects.
- g. This is the last meeting for Stan Moses. He will be retiring. On behalf of the committee, Rob thanked Stan for his service to this committee and wished him well in his retirement.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. (FH/CH)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Black, Administrative Assistant
EMDC