

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2006

PRESENT:	Jim Ring, Bangor	Frank Higgins, Brewer
	Ted Trembley, Bangor	Bob Osborne, Hampden
	Dana Wardwell, Bangor	Linda Johns, Brewer
	David Struck, Orono	Dianne Currie, BACTS
	Charles Heinonen, Old Town	Rob Kenerson, BACTS
	Mike Laberge, MDOT	Don Cooper, BACTS
		Jaci Hancock, EMDC

The Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Technical Committee met on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 in the Penobscot Boardroom at EMDC, 40 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine. Jim Ring called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 20TH MEETING MINUTES

Linda Johns' motion to approve the June 11, 2006 Technical Committee meeting minutes was seconded by David Struck and unanimously approved.

FY 2006-2008 CAPITAL WORK PLAN (BTIP) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Rob Kenerson provided the committee with copies of a Funding Status update handout to facilitate discussion of the allocation of the additional \$500,000 in state funding made available by recent legislative action. The handout includes updated project cost estimates provided by the BACTS communities.

During a comprehensive discussion of the many issues raised by determining the best way to allocate the additional funding, it was confirmed by Mike Laberge, MDOT, that the funds appropriated by the legislature were intended "to restore shelved [road construction] projects" so that projects will have adequate funding to be built. BACTS responded to initial FY '06-'08 budget reductions by cutting some projects and reducing the scope across the board on the remaining projects. Significant and continuing cost increases have resulted in funding shortfalls even for projects with reduced scopes. But/for the additional funding, these projects could not move forward, even as currently scoped.

Clearly, allocation of the additional funding to projects with reduced scopes will result in projects being constructed that would not otherwise be built or built to (the already reduced) scope. It was the consensus of the committee that such projects are eligible to receive allocations from the \$500,000 in additional state funding. Therefore, the BACTS projects in the handout highlighted in bold type (with the exception of 13078.00 which has been completed) qualify for this funding, as long as such funding does not alter any existing federal/state percentage allocation and the project(s) meet the July 1, 2007 bid deadline. With respect to the issue of when a project's federal/state allocation is established, effectively precluding additional state funding without contribution of additional federal funds, Mike Laberge indicated that projects with "PE" or "PE, ROW" Obligated Stages status are limited to receive "construction" phase funding, projects with "None" Obligated Stages status are eligible for funding for all phases.

The committee next discussed the best way to allocate the \$500,000 in additional state funding, -- whether to apportion the funding among the projects or pick and choose which projects to fund. The \$500,000 is an estimated \$873,852 short of fully funding the highlighted projects. Jim Ring volunteered to take the scope of Project 13072.00 (Bangor, Ohio Street, Griffin to Blue Hill),

back to the revised program amount set forth in the handout, plus \$20,000 for increased paving costs. However, available funding remained insufficient. No offers to take projects off the table were forthcoming. Therefore, after further discussion, it was moved by David Struck, seconded by Charlie Heinonen and unanimously voted that:

- (1) The committee acknowledges that the \$500,000 in additional state funding will enable the construction of projects that would not otherwise be completed. However, funding remains inadequate to enable construction of projects to the current (reduced) scope.
- (2) Therefore, it is the consensus of the committee that the best way to utilize the additional \$500,000 to assure the completion of projects with the optimal result from a cost-benefit, prioritization and logistical perspective is by apportioning the allocation of the additional funds among the highlighted projects as currently scoped (with the exception of projects 13074.00 and 13078.00) according to the ratio of the project deficit to the total deficit. Allocation of the \$500,000 in state funds in this manner will definitely result in the construction of projects that would not otherwise be completed under the current BTIP.
- (3) Further, the Technical Committee will report to the BACTS Policy Committee with any amendments to the BTIP necessary to enable municipalities to further allocate funds between the qualifying projects within their community.

FY 2008-2010 CAPITAL WORK PLAN (BTIP) SHORT-LIST

Rob Kenerson advised the committee that the FY '08-'10 BTIP Short List was not quite ready for presentation. It was agreed that this matter will be carried over until the next Technical Committee meeting, which will be specially scheduled to address this and other outstanding matters.

Also, staff noted that the state's data base does not contain information on truck percentage volumes. Therefore, certain preliminary short list decisions will be made without specific truck percentage count information.

BACTS BUDGET

Rob Kenerson presented a brief overview of the FY 2006-2007 BACTS Budget which will be presented more fully to the Policy Committee at the July 18th meeting. He pointed out that by the end of FY '06 (half way through the budget period) approximately \$280,000 will have been expended of the total budgeted amount of \$433,000. Rob further estimated that at current staffing levels, BACTS will realize a savings of approximately \$30,000 in staff costs. He also noted that there may be a need to amend the UPWP so that unexpended funds from the recently completed Brewer North Main Street Study can be reallocated to other tasks like signal coordination, which could include the purchase of a detector for signal sequencing and traffic counts. Rob queried those present as to whether the scope of the current corridor and truck route studies are adequate and if there are any additional projects/tasks that should be looked at by BACTS. Jim Ring requested that Mike Waugh of Sewall present a progress report on the Corridor Study at the next regular meeting of the Technical Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Technical Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, August 8th at 9:30 a.m. The regularly scheduled August 15th Technical Committee will be a Policy Committee meeting.

Dianne Currie solicited those present to provide information to her on newsworthy events and/or information so that she can respond to the BDN's recent inquiry regarding BACTS-related news. Dianne pointed out the importance of maintaining a good relationship with a BDN contact.

Rob reported that the Orono Bike/Pedestrian Bridge funding situation is in flux and that, because of funding limitations and cost realities, funds for the bridge project might become available for broader bike/pedestrian uses.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved (Frank Higgins) and seconded (Mike Laberge) to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved; meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

w/RKchanges7/14/06

Respectfully submitted,
Jaci S. Hancock