

### FY 2010-2011 BACTS Unified Transportation Improvement Plan

BACTS is in the middle of developing the FY 2010-2011 Unified Transportation Plan (UTIP). In January, staff received submission of over forty projects from the BACTS municipalities. Preliminary technical rating was accomplished using existing data and the list was reduced in half in June due to limits on the funding available for construction. The projects still under consideration are shown in the table to the right. The BACTS Technical Committee and Maine DOT staff went on a field trip June 19 to view the short-listed projects to develop a better scope and cost estimate for each project. BACTS staff is currently collecting field data on each project and will again rank the projects using technical criteria. The BACTS Technical Committee will recommend to the Policy Committee which projects to submit on a final list to Maine DOT in the early fall. The projects that are finally selected should be constructed in 2011 or 2012.

Municipality	Street	From/To	Project Type
Bangor	Hammond	Union to Cedar	Rehab
Bangor	Hammond	Cedar to I-95	Rehab
Brewer	State Street	Mullen to Eastern	Rehab
Milford	Route 2	Rte 178 to Milford Motel	Rehab
Bangor	Main Ave	Godfrey to Griffin	Rehab
Old Town	Center & Water	Bridge to Main Street	Rehab
Bangor	Griffin Road	Kenduskeag to Broadway	Rehab
Brewer	Parkway South	I-395 to Robinson	Rehab
Bangor	Odlin Road	RRX south to Town line	Resurfacing
Brewer	Pierce Road	Toyota Dealer to Eastern Ave	Resurfacing
Old Town	Stillwater Ave	K-5 School to College Ave	Reconstruction
Brewer	Wilson Street	Parkway So to Greenpoint Rd	Reconstruction
Bangor	Hogan Road eight intersections		Intersection
Brewer	Wilson/Parkway South		Intersection
Bangor	Hogan Road/I-95 SB		Intersection
Bangor	Broadway/State Street		Intersection
Bangor	Hancock/EMMC Drive		Intersection
Bangor	Maine Ave/Godfrey		Intersection

### 14th Annual Commuter Challenge Overwhelming Success

By Dianne Currie

Gas prices continue to rise, and the statewide average is now over \$4.00 with no relief in sight. People are starting to think about alternative modes of transportation and saving money. In late April a kick-off luncheon was held to announce plans for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Commuter Challenge. The Challenge is a statewide program that encourages people to use alternate modes of transportation.

Over 8,000 people signed up to participate in the Commuter Challenge, which was held May 12 – 16, 2008. The Challenge included five days of commuting opportunities. Participants found many different



ways to commute such as walking, car pooling, van pooling, riding their bike, and riding the BAT.

The BAT Community Connector provided free rides on Transit Tuesday. Approximately 3,560 people took advantage of the free rides on that day. Ridership on Transit Tuesday increased 14% over last year and was up 44% from the number of riders in 1990.

On Transit Free Tuesday, a free breakfast, provided by the Easy-to-Use Big Book, was held near Pickering Square Parking Garage. The breakfast included donuts, fruit, juice and coffee.

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## Approved BACTS FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UPWP)

The second year of the BACTS FY 2008-2009 UPWP lays out the work plan for BACTS staff beginning July 1 and running through next June 30. The Plan includes the usual tasks of administration, data collection, transportation modeling, audit, public outreach, transit planning, signal improvement activities, alternative modes promotion, bicycle and pedestrian planning, transportation safety, and professional development. The Plan also includes some new tasks such as access management, beginning the BACTS long-range plan update, and a study of regional impact fees. The UPWP can be viewed on the BACTS website, [www.bactsmo.org](http://www.bactsmo.org).

## Transportation Security Workshop in Orlando

BACTS director Rob Kenerson was invited to participate in a national Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) peer workshop on "Addressing Security Planning for Natural and Manmade Disasters" in Orlando, Florida at the end of January. This workshop was one in a series that are held to help build MPO professional capacity in a number of areas and was sponsored by FHWA.

The workshop provided an opportunity for senior staff from twelve MPOs to come together to share experiences and learn from each other regarding transportation security. A paper will be written to summarize our discussions that will be shared with approximately 400 MPOs in the country. It was a great opportunity to meet and share with peers from across the country and expand the network of MPO colleagues BACTS staff can call on in the future.

### BAT RIDES: Breaking Record after Record



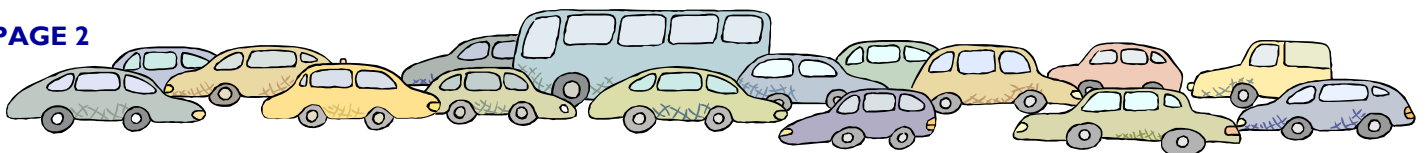
### PUBLIC TRANSIT CORNER

By Don Cooper

**Record Year:** During FY08 (July 2007 through June 2008), BAT has been delivering service to its riders at historically record levels despite a fare increase in October and poor winter weather; both of which tend to suppress ridership. It is estimated that BAT supplied 816,000 rides at the end of June. BAT now delivers as many rides in six months as it did in the full year of 1997!

**Record Month:** In April 2008, BAT carried more riders than it has ever carried in a month—74,598, an increase over April 2007 by 14.8%.

**Free Fare Fridays:** The Governor introduced a statewide initiative aimed at providing some relief to cash-strapped travelers and promoting the idea of using transit as an alternative to using automobiles. For the last two Fridays in November and all the Fridays in December, riders on many of the transit systems in Maine could ride without paying a fare. BAT experienced a significant increase in Friday rides in comparison to Friday rides in the same months of the previous year. However, the overall ridership in November and December was slightly less than the previous year's. These results indicate that the increase in rides on Fridays came from current riders switching their travel to take advantage of the free fare. While there was no real increase in ridership, the promotional effort by the State of Maine in support of transit as a viable alternative is most welcome in raising public awareness of the availability of transit for many, if not all, trips. The Governor's initiative was repeated in July. We will be looking forward to the ridership data to see how effective it has been in promoting transit use.



## *Broadway and Union Street Corridor Signal Improvement Projects*

The Union Street and Broadway Corridor signal improvement study is nearing completion and should be completely finished by late August. A new signal timing plan for the Union Street corridor from 14th Street to Griffin Road is completed, and as soon as the newly installed detectors are tested and online, the corridor should run more efficiently.

The Broadway corridor plan is completed and some new equipment has recently been installed and is currently being tested. These improvements along this corridor will require public education since the phasing along this corridor could change throughout the day, depending on various traffic patterns. The new timing plan should be operational by late August.

## *Commuter Challenge*

All through the week the Prize Patrol, made up of BACTS' Dianne Rice, the Q-106.5 Breakfast Flakes, and WEZQ's Nelson Jewel, was on the loose surprising one lucky participant with either Breakfast or Lunch for themselves and 12 of their co-workers.

### **Bagel Central Breakfast Winners**

Jennifer Boothroyd, EMDC

Elaine O'Leary, Old Town Canoe

Brenda Gammon , Eastern Area Agency on Aging

Angela Lander, Bangor Savings Bank

Jeffery Emery, Maine DEP

### **Subway Restaurant Lunch Winners**

Rob Freeman, University of Maine

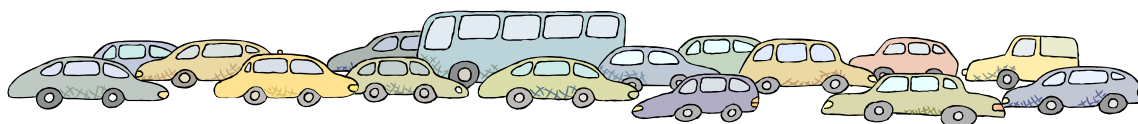
Heather Karam, AAA Travel

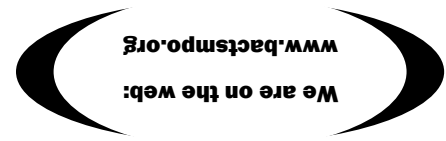
Victoria Kane, University of Maine

Kate, US Court System

Cindy Pelkey , University of Maine System

The Commuter Challenge is sponsored in part by GOMaine, a statewide commuter services program that helps Mainers cope with the high cost of commuting to work. They offer carpool and vanpool ride matching, park and ride and transit information, emergency ride home guarantee, and regular prize drawings and incentives. GOMaine makes it easy for you to register and get the commuter information you need with their new online, interactive ride matching system. Just go to [www.gomaine.org](http://www.gomaine.org) and look for the registration icon. For more information or questions about carpooling, the rideshare program and vanpool program, contact Carey Kish at 800-280-RIDE.





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**BANGOR AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

# BACTS

## Traffic Movement Permit Stakeholder's Panel

BACTS Policy Committee Vice Chair, Jim Ring, and BACTS director, Rob Kenerson, were recently asked to sit on a panel to review the Maine DOT's Traffic Movement Permit regulations to determine if their historic and current implementation creates an inequity among development projects. Maine DOT is particularly interested in whether an impact fee system could be created to address the inequity where the last development project that triggers traffic congestion assumes responsibility for a problem that is contributed to by projects that preceded it.

The panel includes representatives from Maine DOT, Maine Real Estate and Development Association, Maine Association of Planners, a Metropolitan Planning Organization, a

regional planning commission, Maine Better Transportation Association and Maine Municipal Association.

If this panel concurs that there is an inequity that needs to be addressed, we are charged with developing a proposal for presentation to a group of present and former DOT commissioners at a full day session where the proposal can be tested and thoroughly vetted.

The panel has met several times and plans to present findings to the DOT Commissioners in September and have final recommendations by the late fall.

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