

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2016

Brewer Auditorium

Name	Representing
Rob Kenerson	BACTS
Cindy Meservey	BACTS
Frank Higgins	City of Brewer
Belle Ryder	Town of Orono
Gerry Audibert	Maine DOT
Don Cooper	BACTS
Dianne Rice	BACTS
Dana Wardwell	City of Bangor
Linda Johns	City of Brewer
Ted Trembley	City of Bangor
John Theriault	City of Bangor
Nate Howard	Maine DOT
Sophie Wilson	Town of Orono
Randall Barrows	Maine DOT
Dean Bennett	Town of Hampden
Cassie Chase	FHWA
Carlos Pena	FHWA

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	Frank Higgins called the March 15, 2016 meeting of the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee to order at 9:35 am, at Machias Savings Bank.	<i>Linda Johns made the motion to accept the minutes of February 16, 2016 Policy Committee meeting. Belle Ryder seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i>

Conditional Approval of BACTS CY 2016-2019 TIP Version 2

Topic	Discussion	Action
	After the TIP was approved at last month's meeting and put out for public comment, Rob received a call from Carlos asking why the I-395 project was not included. Rob explained that he had asked Maine DOT and was told it didn't need to be included. It was later determined that it did	

	<p>need to be included and put out for public comment again on March 3 and will end on April 4.</p> <p>The I-395 project started 15 years ago. The I-395 Connector Public Advisory Committee met many times over the years and came up with a preferred route. This route was rejected and another route selected by the environmental review agencies. The City of Brewer does not believe the data used was up-to-date. The traffic patterns have now changed with the mill closings, so Brewer doesn't see a need for the extension and feels the money would be best spent on other projects.</p> <p>The City of Bangor is a neighbor of Brewer and they feel they must support them. Other communities at the table felt the same.</p> <p>Sophie Wilson of Orono was disappointed that no DOT managers were at the meeting. She stated that BACTS has a great relationship with DOT, and the process usually works really well. However, when a community manager cannot get someone to talk to them, there is a flaw in the process.</p> <p>Gerry Audibert pointed out that the BACTS Policy Committee had voted to amend the current TIP to include \$250,000 for Preliminary Engineering and Right of Way in WIN 18915.00 (I-395/Route 9 Connector) at the May 2015 meeting. He also reminded the group that the project is in the BACTS Long Range Plan. If the project does not move forward, the State will have to pay back all funds spent to date.</p> <p>The issue is that the BACTS TIP and Maine STIP must mirror each other. If BACTS removes the project from their TIP, the two documents won't match and all projects across the state will be put on hold.</p> <p>Carlos stated that this project has followed the NEPA process correctly. He indicated that FHWA is dedicated to moving this project forward based on comments and responses received during the EIS process.</p>	<p><i>John Theriault made the motion to reject the BACTS CY 2016-2019 TIP Version 2. Linda Johns seconded the motion.</i></p>
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	<p>Sophie indicated that if the BACTS TIP were removed from the STIP, her municipality risks losing a major project that BACTS had helped to get approved. While she wants to support the partners around the table, she has to do what's best for her community.</p> <p>Belle suggested delaying the vote and holding a special meeting where the Maine DOT and FHWA decision-makers could participate. This will allow the BACTS Policy Committee to voice their concerns and find out what the options are.</p> <p>A special meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 25, at 9:30 a.m. at Machias Savings Bank. It was agreed that it would be determined at the beginning of the meeting who would be voting for each municipality.</p>	<p><i>John Theriault made a motion to rescind his earlier motion to reject BACTS CY 2016-2019 TIP Version 2. Linda Johns rescinded her second.</i></p> <p><i>Belle Ryder made a motion to table the issue and schedule a special meeting prior to the end of the public comment period and invite Maine DOT management. John Theriault seconded the motion. Approved with 1 abstention.</i></p>
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Technical Issues

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Brewer: Parkway South has gone out to bid. The project must be done after school is done for the year.</p> <p>Orono: Stillwater Avenue bids have come in and will be opened tomorrow. This project will be done once the University is done for the year.</p>	

Transit Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>The Community Connector is contracting with the University of Maine at Augusta in Bangor. The University will pay for students to ride free. The Community Connector is looking to enter a contract with Job Corp as well.</p> <p>Don also noted that if the BACTS TIP projects are not in the STIP, the Community Connector will receive no federal funding. This amounts to a loss of approximately \$750,000 per year.</p>	

Other Business

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>The first TIP approved by BACTS in February had the Hampden 1A project under WIN 018644.0. The Federal Highway Administration told Maine DOT that this WIN could not be used and additional funding would need to go in WIN 011577.00. It was decided to delete both WINs and begin a TIP amendment as soon as the TIP and STIP are approved by FHWA.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Adjournment</p>		<p><i>The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.</i></p>