

Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2016

Machias Savings Bank

Name	Representing
Rob Kenerson	BACTS
Cindy Meservey	BACTS
Dianne Rice	BACTS
Frank Higgins	City of Brewer
Don Cooper	BACTS
Carlos Pena	FHWA
Darryl Belz	Maine DOT
Barbara Veilleux	Penobscot County
Dana Wardwell	City of Bangor
Linda Johns	City of Brewer
Dean Bennett	Town of Hampden
Rob Yerxa	Town of Orono
Belle Ryder	Town of Orono
Randall Barrows	Maine DOT
Kierie Piccininni	Walk and Roll

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	<p>Frank Higgins called the May 17, 2016 meeting of the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System Policy Committee to order at 9:34 am, at Machias Savings Bank.</p> <p>Belle Ryder pointed out that she was not at the meeting last month, so she did not make the motion to approve the minutes. Cindy noted she would check her notes and make the correction.</p>	<p><i>Linda Johns made the motion to accept the minutes of April 19, 2016 Policy Committee meeting with the change requested by Belle Ryder. Rob Yerxa seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i></p>

Work Plan

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Dianne provided a copy of the list of projects submitted for the 2019 Work Plan. She asked the Committee members to look at their projects on the list to make sure everything is correct. It was</p>	

	<p>noted that two projects in Bangor, Union Street/14th Street and Route 2, RR Tracks to Hammond Street Extension, have already been funded. The money for the 2019 projects will be available in October of 2018. Dianne will finish collecting data to score the projects and bring it to the committee at the June meeting so they can make the final decision on which projects will be funded in the work plan</p> <p>The project ride is scheduled Thursday, May 19. There will be two vans, one from Maine DOT and one from the City of Bangor. Everyone will meet at the end of Acme Road in Brewer. The group will not be stopping at every project site as most of them have been seen before.</p> <p>Rob has received a proposal from Brett Hart of Sewall. Rob is looking to create a two-year contract. He will be sending the contract to Chris Mann and Deb Farrell at Maine DOT for approval.</p> <p>In the past, intersection projects included a level of service. However, since no one outside of the signal technicians is allowed to get into the cabinets, this will no longer be included.</p>	
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TIP Amendment – Hampden Project & FTA Project Funding

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>At the April meeting, the Committee voted to authorize BACTS staff to put the TIP amendment out for public comment. The comment period has ended with no comments received.</p> <p>Once approved by the Committee, the amendment will be put on the BACTS website as Amendment 1 rather than changing the original document.</p>	<p><i>Dean Bennett made a motion to approve the TIP Amendment. Rob Yerxa seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.</i></p>

BACTS Long Range Plan Work Session

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Don went through the section of the Long Range Plan on Climate Change. He suggested adding climate change to the project scoring for the Work Plan. It wouldn't be included in the 2019 Work</p>	

	<p>Plan, as the Committee is part way through the process. It could be added for the next Work Plan.</p> <p>Rob explained that we are looking for infrastructure most susceptible to flooding due to climate change. He asked the Committee what areas they know about that flood now. He also asked them to consider the possibility of ice jams now that the dams have been taken out.</p> <p>Belle asked if there was another pot of money the Committee could tap into if Climate Change is added as a category for scoring projects. At this point there is nothing.</p> <p>Rob pointed out the Goals/Objectives/Strategies section. The Transportation Research Board made recommendations, which include creating an inventory of critical infrastructure such as coastal roads, railways, transit systems, and runways. He explained that if a list was developed, it could be used in the event of a tie-breaker when scoring projects.</p> <p>Frank Higgins told the group that the section is very well written. He mentioned that with ice melt, the shipping routes will be dramatically changed. This impacts the amount of freight coming through our area.</p> <p>Rob attended a Freight Roundtable on May 4. Some of the discussion included the fact that Maine has a lag in development. It is important to begin investing in the smaller ports that can move ships in and out faster.</p> <p>The next section for discussion next month is performance measures.</p>	
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Walk and Roll

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Kierie Piccininni from Walk and Roll attended the meeting. Rob introduced her and asked her to talk about the project her group is working on.</p>	

	<p>Walk and Roll is a group advocating for bicycle, pedestrian and those with disabilities. They are looking to improve public safety, focusing on urban development rather than recreational trails. Kierie asked for priorities for the area and received 15 that were turned into projects.</p> <p>The current project is Way Finding Signage in Bangor. This is a temporary project being funded in part by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. The signs will be up from July 1 through the end of September. These signs direct bikers, pedestrians and those in wheelchairs to routes and key economic points around the city. These signs also make drivers more aware of these groups. This project is currently in the planning/development stage. Currently the group is working on signage design. She brought the idea in front of the City of Bangor’s Infrastructure Committee, and they were excited about the project because it will provide data to see if it’s viable and is a reduction of costs for the City.</p>	
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Technical Issues

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Bangor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammond Street water line being put in. • On Union Street I-95 to Vermont, the main waterline is in and services are now being installed. • I-95 to Griffin is a mill and fill and will start soon. • Broadway water project is set to begin in July. <p>Maine DOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stillwater Orono mill and fill is estimated to start shortly. • Milford is working on a sewer/water update. <p>Brewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The schedule for Parkway South has not been received yet. The project can’t start until after school is out. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City is replacing a retaining wall on North Main Street at the first of June. • A culvert replacement on Eastern Avenue is out to bid now. This will be done this summer, probably late July/early August. 	
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Transit Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>The Community Connector is now a direct recipient. The FTA consultant spent two days with Laurie to make sure the Community Connector has policies and procedures in place. There are some things that BACTS staff has done in the past. These will now be done by the Community Connector staff.</p> <p>The City of Bangor has received a request to provide an additional two hours of evening service per week. The Council is favorable. We are now looking at cost.</p>	

MDOT Report

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Darryl Belz asked if BACTS is willing to participate financially on the approaches to the bridges on Stillwater Avenue in Old Town if they were to be four-lane bridges rather than two-lane bridges. If the bridge size is increased, there is significant environmental permits and right-of-way takes.</p> <p>Rob explained that BACTS had a study done in 2002, and traffic was at 16,000 to 17,000. The study predicted that the traffic would be up to 30,000 by 2017. Dianne’s latest counts show the volume is still around 16,000. Old Town is the only BACTS town to decrease in population in the last census. Rob feels this has something to do with the mill closing, Old Town Canoe moving and more housing for students in Orono.</p> <p>If BACTS were to participate in the project, the funding BACTS provide would go to the road work leading up to the bridge, not on the bridge itself.</p>	

	BACTS is having a study done to cover the area from Bennoch to College Avenue that should begin this summer.	
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Other Business

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>Rob spoke more about the discussion at the Freight Roundtable. There were about 50 people in attendance. One of the major complaints discussed at the meeting was the difficulty in shipping animals out of Maine. The mice from Jackson Lab need to go through New York because there is no inspector in Maine.</p> <p>Rob Yerxa brought up the conflict earlier this year when voting on the TIP. He wanted to follow-up on Maine DOT's comments on our authority and procedures for voting on the TIP at a future meeting.</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
Adjournment		<i>The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.</i>