

PACTS

Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee



Joint Planning and Technical Committee Meeting Notice

April 7th, 2011 9:00 a.m.

PACTS, 68 Marginal Way, Portland

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Public Comment
3. Approve Minutes of the Joint Planning/Technical Committees, January 11, 2011
4. Cumberland County Road-Stream Crossing Work Group
5. Form-Based Codes work in Maine: Damariscotta and Yarmouth
6. DOT MapViewer
7. Preliminary 2012-2013 Study rankings
8. Information and Other Business
9. Next meetings:
 - Next Planning Committee Meeting **May 5th at 9:00am**
 - Next Technical Committee Meeting **May 10th at 8:30 am**
 - ***PACTS Annual Meeting** **June 23rd noon to 1:30**
 - At the USM Library (7th floor) for the PACTS annual meeting.
 - We will email invitations in May and ask for RSVP's then.
 - MaineDOT **Commissioner David Bernhardt will be our speaker.**
10. Adjourn

The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Portland Urbanized Area
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Agenda Item 3. Joint Planning/Technical Committee January 11, 2011

PACTS Joint Planning/Technical Committees Meeting January 11, 2011 9:00 A.M.

Present: Greg Tansley (Biddeford), Brooks Moore (Windham), Jim Wendel (Scarborough), Dan Jellis (Yarmouth), Sara Devlin (MTA), Bob Malley (Cape Elizabeth), Peggy Kilmer (Yarmouth), Vanessa Farr (Yarmouth), Molly Just (Westbrook), Steve Linnell (GPCOG), Jennifer Franceschi (Biddeford), Angela Blanchette (Saco), Maureen O'Meara (Cape Elizabeth), Al Presgraves (Freeport), Elizabeth Trice (Cumberland County), Bob Burns (Gorham), Bill Robertson (Old Orchard Beach), Dale Mitchell (Executive Committee appointee), Tom Poirier (Gorham), Darryl Belz (MaineDOT), Stephanie Clark (MaineDOT), Sandra Mowery (Gorham), Carla Nixon (Cumberland), Jeff McEwen (FHWA), Tex Haeuser (South Portland)

Staff/guests: Joe Young (State Planning Office), Neal Allen (GPCOG), Stephanie Carver (GPCOG), Donna Tippet (GPCOG), Lynne Powers (GPCOG), Dan Walters (US Geological Survey), John Duncan (PACTS), Carl Eppich (PACTS)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approve minutes of the joint planning/tech meeting, August 10, 2010

Jennifer Franceschi made a motion to approve the minutes of the last joint planning/technical committee meeting, and Peggy Killmer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Maine Geolibrary Statewide Orthoimagery Program

Dan Walters of the U.S. Geological Survey gave a presentation on the study that the Maine GeoLibrary conducted on what should be done in the state relative to serving needs. The study looked at potential roadblocks such as being unable to fly the entire state at once, and the fact that there will not be a great deal of funding available. The study recommended blocking Maine into 11 different groups, as the landscape is very different in various parts of the state. The groups were decided upon by looking at different GIS layers and studying which areas are changing the most rapidly, and by trying to keep counties intact as much as possible. Groups 1-8 would have a two-foot resolution as a baseline with an option to buy up into higher resolutions, and this would run on a three-year and five-year refresh cycle; the territories marked as N-1, N-2, and N-3 are sparsely settled and would be flown at a 3.3 resolution. Cumberland and York Counties are in Group 3.

Dan said that the idea is that the federal, state, and county governments would fund the program. Counties have expressed interest, and state agencies have typically funded this type of endeavor in the past. State and federal government do not have a line item for this but do have funds available that could be cobbled together for the short term. Dan laid out the benefits of this large-scale orthoimagery program as threefold: 1) subsidy in orthoimagery program, 2) receiving enormous economies of scale by working this through a large group project, and 3) sharing the administrative costs. The GeoLibrary just applied for a federal grant to do a return on investment study for the program, and Dan expressed cautious optimism about the grant application.

The projected cost, based on a five-year contract, hovers around \$450,000-\$500,000 per year, and that is the goal. Dan handed out several tables broken down by group, with potential prices, based on this program going statewide. He said that if members support this plan, they can send a letter of support, or letter of commitment/financial support, to the county commissioners. He also suggested mentioning the importance of the program in any encounters with personnel at the state level. The GeoLibrary doesn't have the funding in hand now and is making an attempt to start to fund the program in 2012. The plan is to begin with groups 3, 4, and N-1. A contract would likely need to be in place by March 1, 2012, and thus financial commitments would need to be in by that time. Donna Tippet pointed out that the initiative does not need participation from towns for the base price; just for the buy-up.

Maureen O'Meara made a motion that the planning and technical committees recommend to the Policy Committee that letters of PACTS support for the Maine Geolibrary Statewide Orthoimagery Program be sent to Dan Walters's list of contacts. Tex Haeuser seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dan said that town commitments for resolution buy-ups will be needed by October 1, 2011, and Donna said that GPCOG could host an informational meeting on buy-up options.

5. MaineDOT Web Based MapViewer Presentation

This presentation was skipped due to technical difficulties.

6. UPWP Study Application Process and Schedule

John Duncan requested solicitations for studies for the 2012/2013 year. Carl Eppich said that this is PACTS' typical request for study proposals, and informed the committees that there will most likely be less funding available than in prior years. This is due to three factors: 1) the Policy Committee endorsing a policy for regional signal traffic management, which would cost \$100,000; 2) the arterial roads assessment and \$50,000 as a placeholder; and 3) PACTS programming \$50,000 for aerial photography in the next biennium. That leaves a tentative total of \$135,000 available for all planning studies for communities and transit providers. Carl pointed out that proposals of regional significance will most likely rank the highest. He encouraged municipalities and transit providers to apply despite the low funds; there is the possibility that there could be some money left down the road, even if a particular study wasn't funded at first.

Angela brought up the idea of having a regionally-based toolbox of criteria for things like where to place crosswalks and when to use pedestrian bump-outs, saying that it could help in disputes between public works and planning. Several committee members said that they understand the point, but that it would be difficult to implement PACTS-wide regional standards. Paul pointed out that there are guidelines along these lines in the bicycle/pedestrian plan, which could be broadened.

7. Arterial Assessment

Carl said that there would be an assessment of pavement condition, and, in general, what is there today for arterials. This came from a MaineDOT request to create some consistency/standard on guidelines for something like traffic calming. Paul Niehoff made the point that PACTS and municipalities generally know where they stand with collector roads, but not with arterials. PACTS is currently responsible for capital improvements on

arterials, and MaineDOT will not touch un-built roads, but no one is certain which roads qualify as un-built. Some skepticism was expressed about going through with this assessment, with several members feeling that this is a way for MaineDOT to pass responsibility for more roads back to municipalities. Carl suggested it as an opportunity to draw attention to unmet needs.

Bob Burns said that it is important to consider this as a study, and that municipalities and PACTS need to understand what is theirs to maintain and what is MaineDOT's responsibility. He suggested that PACTS could potentially avoid hiring someone to do a study if staff formally asked for the list of which roads are whose responsibilities. **Bob moved that PACTS staff draft a letter to MaineDOT requesting the list of what are considered built and un-built roads in the PACTS region. Jim Wendel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

8. Information and other business

Bob Malley asked about the impact of the Baxter Boulevard project. Paul responded that the money goes back into the holding PIN and it doesn't have a place yet. There was a question about whether it would slide down to the next approved project on the list, as more projects were approved than PACTS actually had funding for, but the official policy is to put it back in the PIN and to pass it on to a project of a similar category.

Molly Just asked about a regional bus route study. Carl said that it is a study about fine-tuning existing bus routes, making sure that there are better connections between Metro and South Portland buses. Steph Carver clarified that the study concerns coordinating between different modes of transportation – such as ferry service, flying, bus routes, or shuttle bus ZOOM – and has been pared down from a larger study.

Bob Burns and Jennifer asked that people pay close attention to projects that are proceeding with MaineDOT, and that if anyone has had recent projects with excessive amounts of administrative time or budget-blowing regulations, they contact Bob or Jennifer.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M

Agenda Item 4. Cumberland County Road-Stream Crossing Work Group

The Cumberland County Road-Stream Crossing Work Group will give an update on progress since our last meeting. The following information is what appeared in the February (Technical Committee) meeting packet:

The Cumberland County Road-Stream Crossing Work Group is an initiative started in 2010 by the Cumberland County Emergency Management Agency & Executive Offices, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Coastal Program, and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

The goals of the Work Group are to assist towns and landowners; provide resources, coordination, engineering support and training to facilitate culvert replacement; to preserve infrastructure, reduce flood risk and maintenance costs, and improve fish passage. The group intends to raise funds and provide engineering and logistical support for culvert replacement projects, and to complete a database of flood risk, fish barriers, and planned road reconstruction sites. It will develop a schedule and process for coordinated grant applications, and will conduct trainings in culvert permitting, maintenance and construction.

Combined goals with the PACTS committees:

- Get feedback on these ideas
- Find out the best way to collect data on planned road work so as to plan for grant applications.
- How else can we be helpful?

A schedule of acquisition would then be published so that cities and towns and other partner organizations know when their areas of interest will be acquired 2 years in advance so they can budget funds for buy-ups.

Agenda Item 5. Form-Based Codes work in Maine: Damariscotta and Yarmouth

The concept of Form Based Codes (FBC) is quickly gaining momentum in New England, and there is much interest in Greater Portland and the PACTS region. Two of PACTS' studies scopes include an analysis of the potential of FBC in redevelopment, in Portland in the **Forest Avenue Integrated Transportation and Land Use Plan**, and in Windham in the **Transportation Plan for North Windham**.

Vanessa Farr, Planning Director in Yarmouth, and Kara Wilbur, Director of the New England office of Town Planning and Urban Design Collaborative (TPUDC) will be here to present and discuss Form Based Codes from the small town perspective. Vanessa will share Yarmouth's experiences, speaking about how existing regulations and a good set of design guidelines adopted almost ten years ago have not "guaranteed the results", the direction the community desires to move in, and some of the interim challenges, such as conflicting views regarding future functionality of Route One, current by-contract-only new Village development, and residential density in the suburban fringe. Kara, both a native of Damariscotta and a member of the design Charrette team for the "Heart and Soul" project, will describe why Damariscotta chose the path of Form Based Code, the multi-day Charrette planning process, and what steps and where Damariscotta Planning and Advisory Committee is at with its calibration of the Smartcode.

Considering the varying knowledge of the topic, the presentation will incorporate a brief overview of Form Based Codes including what a Form Based code is (and is not), the framework of a code, and new technical vocabulary, such as regulating plans, transects, modules, sector plans, and illustrative master plans. Concluding the presentation, we will discuss how Maine communities can develop and adopt form based codes, and what PACTS participants can do to ensure that the most important step in local smart growth planning is taken: sector planning on the regional level.

Form Based Codes Institute will be holding the following training sessions in Portland:
The ABC's of Form-Based Codes, May 2, 2011;
FBC 301: Legal Considerations, May 3 – 4, 2011.

Go to www.formbasedcodes.org for more information

Useful FBC Links:

Center for Applied Transect Studies www.transect.org

Congress for the New Urbanism www.cnu.org

www.streetfilms.org lots of useful bike, ped, street, park, etc. films

www.tpudc.com

Agenda Item 6. MaineDOT MapViewer program

Nate Kane will give a presentation/demonstration in the use of the new MaineDOT MapViewer program.

The MaineDOT MapViewer was developed to facilitate communications and make data more accessible to the Department and external partners through a location-based medium. With this online, interactive mapping application, users can zoom to any specific **location to view transportation infrastructure** and related information such as Federal Functional Classification and Jurisdiction of Highways as well as town boundaries, state and federal urban boundaries and unique identifiers for bridges, intersection nodes and rail crossings.

MaineDOT proactively launched this synergistic computer based initiative to streamline e-learning in the trans media, info-centric environment and leverage the current paradigm of information logistics empowerment.

Agenda Item 7. PACTS Studies '12-'13 UPWP Prelim rankings

Below are the preliminary rankings of studies received by PACTS for the upcoming budget:

PACTS Studies Scoring for FY 2012 and 2013 PACTS Consultant Study Proposals													
Scores average on a 5 point scale													
Proposer	Request	Function/Study	Maintain	Crit. Intersections	Expand	Avoid New Highway	Trans/Land Use	Access Mgt.	Pass. Transportation	Livability/Redevelop.	Special Credit	Total	Preliminary Rank
Gorham													
Portland													
Scarborough													
South Portland													
Westbrook	\$50,000	Gorham East West Land Use Planning	4.5	0	1.5	2.5	5	2.5	4	4.5	4.5	29	1
Portland	\$35,000	Brighton/Deering/Falmouth intersection	2	4	0.5	0.5	3.5	1	0.5	5		17	2
S. Portland	\$15,000	Bike/Ped routes	1	1	2	1.5	3	0	2	4.5		15	3
Bidd.+Saco	\$30,000	Saco and Biddeford Wayfinding Study	2	1.5	0	0	1.5	1	1	4.5	3	14.5	4
Portland	\$100,000	Libbytown traffic circulation and streetscape	1.5	3.5	1	0.5	2.5	1	0.5	2.5		13	5
Portland	\$50,000	Peninsula vehicular wayfinding	4	1	0	0	1	1	1	4		12	6
S. Portland	\$12,000	SMCC bus satellite parking	1	0	0.5	1	3.5	0	2	3		11	7
Windham	\$20,000	Alternative funding study	2	3.5	0	0	0	1.5	0	2		9	8
S. Portland	\$7,500	Broadway roadway capacity	1	3	1.5	0	0	1	0.5	1.5		8.5	9
Scarborough	\$20,000	Eastern Trail railroad crossing	1	0	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	3		6	10
Total requests	\$339,500												
Total available	~\$185,000												

Through our most recent UPWP budget development process, staff estimates that there will be approximately \$185,000 available for studies in the coming biennium

Schedule here forward:

- TODAY -- April 7th: Planning and Technical Committees comment on scores of proposals for new FHWA-funded studies.
- April 14th: Transit Committee continues work on FTA-funded budget.
- April 21st: Policy Committee comments on draft budget and scope outline, and provides direction on the funding of current studies which might need completion after June 30th.
- May 3rd: Executive Committee recommends final UPWP budget and tasks to Policy Committee.
- May 12th: Transit Committee puts final touches on FTA-funded budget.
- May 19th: Policy Committee final action.
- May 27th: Staff submits draft 60-page UPWP to MaineDOT, FHWA and FTA for comment.
- June: Staff finalizes UPWP. Policy Committee Chair and MaineDOT Chief Planner sign agreement.

Agenda Item 8. Information and Other Business

Staff Updates:

- Carl is busy with all PACTS '10-'11 studies now underway and with a deadline of June 30th to be completed:

Regionwide: Greater Portland Transit Focused Region:

- 3rd presentation and discussion tonight Thursday April 7th at 6:00 pm, in Portland at the Merrill Auditorium Rehearsal Hall behind Portland City Hall
- 4th and final presentation and workshop at Merrill Auditorium Rehearsal Hall at 8:30 Friday April 8th morning

In Biddeford and Saco: PACTS Regional Traffic Management System(RTMS) (Phase2)

- Under contract with consultant VHB as of last week. First meeting was 4/5

In Scarborough: Oak Hill Pedestrian Plan

- The first meeting with the stakeholder advisory committee was held on 3/22. The next meeting is at 5:30 on April 26th

In Portland:

1. Forest Avenue Integrated Transportation and Land Use Plan

- The first "Transforming Forest Avenue" Advisory Committee meeting will be April 28th.

2. Congress Street Bus Priority Corridor Feasibility and Implementation

- The first meeting with the corridor stakeholders is April 27th at the Institute for Contemporary Art on Congress St., beginning at 4PM.

In Windham: Transportation Plan for North Windham

- The first advisory committee meeting was Monday 4/4 evening.

In Yarmouth: Route 1 Corridor Study: Phase 3

- Alternatives presented to Gateway Committee. Project nearing completion.
- Paul met recently with Joyce Taylor, Norm Baker and Mike Laberge to discuss the viability of PACTS locally administering the majority of projects under a somewhat modified LAP (LPA) program. The concept was well received and comments positive. As with most things we do, "the devil is in the details".
- Paul and Bob Burns were planning on attending the MAPA meeting to be part of the high cost and risk of paving. The meeting has been postponed. Therefore PACTS will be hosting with the same topic but with a southern Maine specific focus.
- The first meeting for Review of MPO Project Prioritization, Selection, Scoping, Engineering and Construction Delivery of Federally Funded Projects will be here on April 12.
- We are waiting for a couple weeks for DOT to be part way through their road condition survey before we meet with them and G-P about the collector study update parameter review.
- Carl, Paul and John met with Kevin Hooper to review and select locations for daily, peak and directional traffic counts which we will be contracting for in order to calibrate our model.
- The Veterans Memorial Bridge replacement project is on schedule with a lot of cranes in place down there now. See: www.VeteransMemorialBridge.org
- There is a Public Meeting to Discuss the Bicycle/Pedestrian facility proposed at the S. Portland end of the new Veterans Bridge on May 3rd

- The Martin's Point Bridge replacement project (Route 1 between Portland and Falmouth) received some press on April 4th. See: <http://www.pressherald.com/news/Bridges-neighbors-find-flaws-in-proposed-closure-.html>
- The Gorham East-West Corridor Feasibility Study report came out in March. You can download it and all supporting material at: <http://www.gorhamcorridor.org>
- Portland is planning a neighborhood meeting about the neighborhood by-way project (aka Bike Boulevard) on April 13th.
- Paul is working with Portland and BCM on new psa's and distributing recent psa's to our communities.

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MaineDOT **Commissioner David Bernhardt will be our speaker.**