

# PACTS

Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee



## Technical Committee Meeting Notice

14 February 2006  
8:30 a.m.

PACTS, 68 Marginal Way, Portland

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### Agenda

1. **Call to order.**
2. **Adoption of minutes of 10 January meeting.**
3. **Status reports.** (Attachment.)
4. **Collector paving update and information sharing.**
5. **Safety (HCL) Study update.**
6. **Other business.**
7. **Adjourn.**

### Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 14 March 2006 at 8:30 am  
PACTS, 68 Marginal Way, Portland

*The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Portland Urbanized Area*

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**PACTS Technical Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of 10 January 2006**

**Members Present:** Bob Malley, Cape Elizabeth, Chair; Mike Bolduc, Saco; Bob Burns, Gorham; Eric Dudley, Westbrook; Kathi Earley, Portland; Doug Fortier, Windham; Jennie Franceschi, Biddeford; Dan Jellis, Yarmouth; Tom Meyers, Public Transportation; Albert Presgraves, Freeport; Ed Reidman, South Portland; Jim Wendel, Scarborough; David Willauer, GPCOG

**Members Absent:** Don Chaisson, North Yarmouth; Mary Conroy, Old Orchard Beach; Tony Hayes, Falmouth; Josh Mack, SMRPC; Adam Ogden, Cumberland; Duane Scott, MaineDOT; Jonathan LaBonte, MTA

**Staff and Guests:** Maddy Adams, GPCOG; Julia Dawson, PACTS; John Duncan, PACTS; Eric Ortman, PACTS; Dave Sherlock, MaineDOT

1. **Call to Order.** Bob Malley called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
2. **Approval of November 8, 2005 minutes.** *Ed Reidman made a motion to approve the November 8, 2005 minutes, seconded by Kathi Earley. All were in favor.*
3. **Status Reports.** No action.  
John mentioned that Julia is organizing a safety study. MaineDOT safety money would be used for this study, not PACTS dollars. Please speak to staff regarding locations in your town that deserve study. The safety factor is largely determined by looking at the critical rate factor and the percentage of accidents that result in injury. Staff will be meeting with MaineDOT and committee members and then drafting a list of locations that are recommended for study and then that list will be presented to the Policy Committee. A traffic engineering firm will be hired to do the technical analysis. It is our hope to have the technical analysis completed by June. Kathi mentioned that, with the opening of the 295 Connector, Portland is considering closing the 295 off-ramp that leads to Congress Street because of its safety concerns.
4. **TIP “Short List” Recommendation to Policy Committee.** Eric explained the flow chart. Short List “A” lists \$7.5 million in projects. Approximately three projects will be funded. These projects would be compared with the 12 projects that are left over from 06/07 that didn’t get PCE funding. There is \$600,000 available for 06/07 PCE funds. Then a short list “B” would be developed. From that, EPS would be done during the summer if needed. At the end of the summer, a final list will be recommended to the Policy Committee. PACTS now has to fund cost overruns on projects.

Dave asked how the PCE could begin immediately if pin numbers hadn’t yet been assigned. Eric explained that they have a blanket pin assigned. MaineDOT said they would be subcontracted out so that they could begin. An amendment to the STIP may be needed.

Staff recommended the following for funding: the top 5 intersection projects, the top 2 reconstruction projects, and the top 2 widen projects. All cost estimates have been developed using the same framework and many have been provided by consultants (those tend to be low so those cost estimates may go up). The two Scarborough projects are contiguous.

Eric Dudley asked why William Clarke Drive was scored as an intersection project rather than a roadway project and explained why it should be scored as a roadway. Eric Ortman explained that the VC score relates to the improvement in VC. Eric Dudley stated that they didn’t submit total intersection information on this project because they submitted it as a roadway project. Eric D. thought that the numbers seemed inaccurate. Eric O. will ask the engineer to take another look at

the VC score. John, Eric O. and Eric D will talk further about whether or not this should be scored as a widen road project.

The Policy Committee has decided that projects that didn't get funded in 06/07 would automatically be thrown in with the 08/09 funding. Short list "B" will be developed which will include the 06/07 and 08/09 projects. This will be voted on at a later date.

Al recommended that the top four projects under reconstruction be included since the rating numbers are close. The only problem is that one of the projects is \$7,000,000. Eric explained that the Warren Avenue project is estimated at \$650,000 but the real estimate will probably be double that. Development of Short List B will be more difficult if more projects are included.

Five of the 06/07 projects received PCE funding. Three others were cut when we had to make the \$6.5 million budget cut. It was asked if more weight would be given to the 06/07 projects that have already had EPS done. Eric explained that to try to be fair to all projects, there shouldn't be any deference given to the 06/07 projects just because they went through EPS. The 08/09 projects will need EPS but it won't be done until the short list is recommended.

Dave asked if the length or price tag of the project affect any of this. Eric explained that the cost effectiveness is based upon the cost per lane mile. The Saco project is 3.1 miles long and the Scarborough projects are 1000 feet. We have suggested to communities that they break them up into manageable sizes.

PCE decisions will be made by March. Whatever doesn't get on the final short list will not be carried forward; they will need to be resubmitted.

***Bob Burns made a motion to forward the 08/09 projects recommended by staff for the short list which would include the top five highest rated intersection projects, the top two highest rated reconstruction projects and the top two highest rated widen roads projects. Ed Reidman seconded the motion. All were in favor except Mike Bolduc.***

Cost estimates need to be submitted for the eight EPS projects including an estimate of the amount of right of way needed, but not including any geotech work. When EPS is done, this 06/07 list will come back to the Technical Committee.

Mike Bolduc asked what PACTS is doing about obtaining additional funding. John responded that nationwide the funding has shrunk. We are getting more involved in the annual earmark process but the amount of funding available is very small. We're also working to organize the development of a list of regional priority projects to sell to the Congressional delegation for the reauthorization in 2009. Ed Reidman pointed out that over the years there has been more money coming into this area for construction-type projects aside from the PACTS allocation. For example, earmark money was used for the Casco Bay Bridge. PACTS staff looked back over the past ten years and learned that for every dollar that came in to PACTS, an additional \$2 had been spent by MaineDOT.

Eric reported that ARAN data will be forthcoming from MaineDOT and that will be used as a basis from which to work for collector paving. Applications for bike/ped proposals haven't been sent out yet. You will need to resubmit projects that didn't get funded. Eric will send a list of the projects that got funded in 06/07. Bob Malley requested that we get a status report on all MPO projects as to where projects stand regarding their financial and work status. It was mentioned that in the future there will be a state/municipal agreement required for any overlays in an urban compact area.

5. **Other Business.** None.

6. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

**Item 3**  
**Status Reports**

- The Policy Committee unanimously voted to submit the following three projects to the Congressional Delegation for consideration for federal 2006 annual appropriations:
  - a. Freeport Main Street Reconstruction (\$540,000)
  - b. Old Orchard Beach rotary construction (\$1,200,000)
  - c. Westbrook Cumberland Mills Triangle intersection improvements (\$1,000,000).
- The Policy Committee unanimously voted to establish a working group to develop a 2009 Federal Reauthorization Earmarks list of projects.
- The TIP Process Committee has made it final report and recommendations to the Policy Committee, which will vote on adoption in March.
- The Governor's Transportation Funding Task Force has issued its final report. The report is included as an attachment.
- The Planning Committee is drafting a proposal to the Policy Committee for a case study of the Draft PACTS Transportation Project Land Use Policy. The Gorham Bypass is proposed as the case study.
- The GPCOG Status Report is now being produced on a quarterly basis and is included as an attachment.