

# PACTS

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Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee

## Planning Committee Meeting Notice

May 3, 2007  
9:00 a.m.

PACTS, 68 Marginal Way, Portland

### Agenda

- 1. Call to order, and welcome Paul Niehoff, the new PACTS Senior Transportation Planner**
- 2. Minutes of March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**
- 3. Status Reports**
- 4. Context Sensitive Solutions**

Review of the March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> forum and workshop, and discussion of next steps

- 5. The Next Two Years at PACTS**

Presentation and discussion of a draft two-year planning and administration work program, and the priorities of the Planning Committee

- 6. Adjourn**

*Next Meeting: July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. There will be no June meeting.*

*Stayed tuned for date for June PACTS Annual Meeting.*

***The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Portland Urbanized Area***

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## **Agenda Item 2: Minutes of March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

Will be sent separately on Monday.

## **Agenda Item 3: Status Report**

Brooks More, Westbrook's City Planner, has accepted the offer to become Windham's Town Planner.

We are very glad to welcome Paul Niehoff as the new PACTS Senior Transportation Planner. Paul will work on the variety of regional planning and project scoping efforts underway here. He brings fifteen years of experience in civil engineering for Auburn and Portland. Paul was most recently the MaineDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator, and is well known in the bicycling and pedestrian community throughout the state.

GPCOG's staff, Julia Dawson, and a website consultant have just completed a significant upgrade to our website: [www.pactsplan.org](http://www.pactsplan.org). Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

### Upcoming Studies

- The Managers of Gorham, Scarborough, South Portland and Westbrook have drafted council resolutions to encourage the Turnpike Authority to begin a detailed study of a turnpike spur west from South Portland.
- MaineDOT and the Turnpike Authority will soon begin an I-295 truck diversion study.
- The Turnpike will soon begin a major toll policy study.

### Recent Committee Meetings

#### Policy Committee:

- Elected Bill Shane, the Cumberland Town Manager, as the new Vice Chair, and Mike Bobinsky, the Portland Public Works Director, as the new Chair. They begin their year on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Took several actions regarding capital projects funding, including endorsement of three trail projects funded in Freeport and Portland.
- Continued work with staff on the planning priorities for the next two years.

#### Technical Committee:

- Established subcommittee on flexible application of MaineDOT design standards.
- Met with John Melrose on LD 1790.
- Heard presentation on the development of the UPWP.

#### Transit Committee:

- Discussed the development of the UPWP, and discussed a Committee work plan for the next biennium.

#### Regional Transit Study

- Continued to put finishing touches on implementation work plan. The Policy Committee will adopt it in June.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Context Sensitive Solutions**

Seventy five (75) people attended the recent day-long training workshop. It was a great success! Julia Dawson is organizing a working group to build upon the enthusiasm expressed by participants. Many MaineDOT people attended and participated actively. The speaker from the New Hampshire DOT, who described some great CSS work they have done in our conservative (?) neighboring state, was a great inspiration for us in Maine.

Fred Kent, the Project for Public Spaces speaker, also inspired the 50 attendees at the public forum the night before. He took many questions, as did Terry DeWan and Jim Cohen, the two panelists who each gave a local reaction to Fred's remarks.

Staff will describe at your meeting the plan to convene people interested in continuing to work on this subject. We want to build upon the great amount of energy expressed at the workshop

#### **Agenda Item 5: The Next Two Years at PACTS**

Our objectives today are to brief members, and to take input for possible presentation to the Policy Committee, on these topics:

1. Topics of probable interest to the Planning Committee
2. Our overall draft work plan.

#### **1. Topics of probable interest to the Planning Committee**

There is a lot going on in regional and state transportation planning! The draft PACTS 2-year planning work program includes the following regional and state efforts in which staff and/or committee members will participate:

- Regional land use plan related to the next item (PACTS and others)
- "Westerly Access Road" from South Portland to Gorham (MaineDOT and Turnpike)
- Toll highway from Biddeford to Sanford (MaineDOT and Turnpike)
- Regional impact fees (PACTS)
- Continue our recent work begun to promote the incorporation of Context Sensitive Solutions into the transportation planning/design processes of MaineDOT and our member municipalities (PACTS and others)
- Update of our 1995 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (GPCOG)  
*This scored as a low priority by Policy Committee members.*
- Transit oriented zoning (GPCOG)
- Implementation of the Regional Transit Coordination Study (Transit Providers, GPCOG and SMRPC)
- Support of the Maine Clean Communities work (GPCOG and others)
- Extension of passenger rail service to Brunswick (MaineDOT)
- Turnpike widening (Turnpike)
- Turnpike toll policy (Turnpike)

- Diversion of trucks from I-295 to the turnpike (MaineDOT and Turnpike)
- Revisions to the MaineDOT Rule for the Sensible Transportation Policy Act (MaineDOT and Turnpike)
- Coordination with MaineDOT during the completion of the MaineDOT's *Connecting Maine* long range plan

During the recent Policy Committee deliberations the following two topics of interest to the Planning Committee\* scored as low priorities.

- Develop a proactive regional sustainable approach in the context of climate change

Recommendation: GPCOG's Steve Linnell is actively involved in this. I will ask Steve to prepare some ideas for you.

- Perform extensive work on access management

Recommendation: Eric Ortman was about to delve into this when he left PACTS. I suggest a 6-month hiatus for PACTS staff on this subject as Paul Niehoff learns his new job and fills in for Julia Dawson for the next three months.

\* The Policy Committee consensus last month was that topics that they gave low scores to are not automatically ineligible activities for the Planning, Technical and Transit Committees. Instead, the Policy Committee members agreed that the Committees should develop their own work plans and work with staff to achieve them. Policy Committee endorsement will be needed, of course, when a work item has significant budget and/or staff resource needs.

For your information, here are your priorities from two months ago.

#### Planning Committee Priorities

- 1 Investigate impact fees and developer funding for transportation
- 2 Implement the PACTS Regional Transit Coordination Study
- 3 Develop a policy to limit use of TIP funds to resolve growth-induced traffic needs
- 4 Develop a proactive regional sustainable approach in context of climate change
- 4 Develop a proactive PACTS effort to encourage multi-municipal policies
- 6 Plan and encourage transit oriented development
- 6 Perform extensive work on access management
- 8 Improve safety and preserve mobility on I-295
- 9 Participate actively in proposed east-west highway and land use study
- 10 Investigate the potential for travel demand management initiatives
- 11 Increase use of transit to alleviate parking pressures
- 12 Increase PACTS connections with traffic law enforcement

## **2. The overall draft work plan for PACTS**

The Policy Committee will adopt a 2-year planning/administration work plan on May 17<sup>th</sup>. It includes work financed with FHWA, FTA, MaineDOT, municipal, GPCOG, SMRPC and other funds.

A major section is the work funded by the Federal Transit Administration and performed by GPCOG and SMRPC staffs. David Willauer and/or Steve Linnell will give you an overview. They and Tom Reinauer are working primarily with the Transit Committee on the scope of this work.

The official name of the work plan is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). We will submit a final 25-page UPWP to MaineDOT, FHWA and FTA later this month.

Staff is currently talking with the five members of the general public who submitted some ideas and questions about the UPWP.

For your review and comment, here are some other topics that we expect to work on during the next two years.

1. Lead a regional education process related to the need for more transportation funding. *This is the Policy Committee's highest priority.*
2. Organize and oversee the development of concept plans for High Priority Project proposals to be submitted by PACTS to our Congressional Delegation in 2008.
3. Revise the PACTS TIP priority setting process with the TIP Process Committee. Coordinate a new round of enhanced project scoping – depending on future capital funding levels from the Legislature and Congress.
4. Work closely with MaineDOT on ways to improve the Locally Administered Projects process.
5. Improve the collector paving priority-setting and management processes – as outlined in Eric Ortman's scope of work discussed at recent meetings.
6. Perform a review of the effectiveness of the current organizational structure and policies of PACTS, and make changes to improve the decision-making process.
7. Organize and administer 34 studies funded through PACTS. A proposed major study of traffic signal improvements will be based on Julia Dawson's recent regional analysis.
8. Creation of a PACTS capital projects accounting system? Our existing procedures might suffice.

9. Participate with the other MPO's and MaineDOT in the completion of an "MPO Administrative Guide" being drafted by MaineDOT.
10. Coordination with the work of the Southern Maine Corridor Committee.
11. Maintain the PACTS website in order to enhance public access to the work of PACTS.
12. Prepare and distribute an annual report on transportation issues facing the region and on the accomplishments of PACTS.
13. Public speaking to town and city councils, planning boards, service clubs, chambers of commerce and other interested groups.
14. Participate on the Public Policy Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Portland Region, and meet with other business groups that wish to learn about regional transportation issues.

The final three pages are the rankings of the Policy Committee as discussed and endorsed at their April meeting.

<b>TABLE 1 -- SINGLE LIST WITH PROPOSED TIERS</b>		TOTAL	TIER
Explore ways to increase funding	790	1	
Implement 2007 transit coordination study	520	1	
Streamline the LAP process and project delivery process	510	1	
Assess PACTS MPO funding model - is it broken ?	480	1	
Look at how PACTS/DOT allocates funding -	450	1	
Focus on how we restructure PACTS and how it can be accomplished- may require legislative approval	340	1	
Improve collector paving and road funding selection process	340	1	
Investigate impact fees and developer funding for transportation	330	1	
Direct more state funding directly to towns	290	1	
Collaborate with MEDOT on design standards for collector paving	280	1	
Continue to explore earmark funding process	270	2	
Develop guideline to incorporate transit planning into municipal comprehensive planning process	270	2	
Consider the addition of more toll roads	250	2	
Review application of DOT design standards	240	2	
Review other MPO governance and programming structures	230	2	
Increase our working relationship with legislators - education/marketing & outreach	230	2	
Assess the regionality of invested funds and how to improve it	220	2	
Plan/ design & implement a regional map & time table for public use	220	2	
Study Travel Demand Management (TDM) on a regional basis	210	2	
Explore impacts of PACTS becoming a TMA after next census	200	3	
Look at more transit hubs	200	3	
Plan and encourage transit oriented development	200	3	
Analyze connectivity between other modes and service areas	190	3	
Develop a policy to limit use of TIP funds to resolve growth-induced traffic needs	170	3	
Use PACTS planning funds to finance aerial photos of whole region every three years	170	3	
Enhance PACTS capacity as a single source provider of data services/funding	130	3	
Participate actively in proposed east-west highway and land use study	130	3	
Develop methodology to implement a regional fare system	130	3	
Study impact of Turnpike planned spurs	120	3	
Improve access to Turnpike and create Turnpike regional toll free zone	120	3	
Explore private/public partnerships	90	4	
Develop regional commuter bike routes - safety/security/standards	80	4	
Develop a proactive PACTS effort to encourage multi-municipal polices	80	4	
Create a library of PACTS "best practices" and use it as a marketing tool in seeking funding	80	4	
Explore alternative fuel use	80	4	
Explore regional approach to corridors, and multi-municipal agreements	80	4	
Look at increasing overlay projects - increasing maintenance and less construction	80	4	
Increase traffic signal coordination	80	4	
Prioritize roads on transit routes	80	4	
Increase transit use to alleviate parking pressures	80	4	
Develop regional commuter bike routes - safety/security/standards	80	4	
Increase traffic signal coordination	80	4	
Improve safety and preserve mobility of I-295	60	4	
Develop a regional interstate master plan	50	4	
Look at % of funding and life span of roads	40	4	
Expand radio inter operability	40	4	
Study signal preemption opportunities for transit and emergency vehicles	30	4	
Increase regional bike/ped trail planning funding	10	4	
Establish monthly task list/time table for upcoming yr - time table for goals	10	4	
Perform extensive work on access management	10	4	
Explore opportunities at Thompson Point Portland	10	4	
Revisit bike/ped plans	0		
Develop a proactive regional sustainable approach in context of climate change	0		
Enhance relationship between Turnpike & Towns	0		
Review regional ITS opportunities	0		
Map project proposals for the TIP	0		
Identify/list PACTS roads that meet MEDOT overlay standards	0		
Coordinate health care facilities needs in public transit planning/investments	0		
Increase generator back-up to fuel vehicles	0		

<b>TABLE 2 -- SORTED IN CATEGORIES</b>		
<u>Bike/Ped</u>	TOTAL	TIER
Analyze connectivity between other modes and service areas	190	3
Develop regional commuter bike routes - safety/security/standards	80	4
Increase regional bike/ped trail planning funding	10	4
Revisit bike/ped plans	0	
<u>Funding</u>		
Explore ways to increase funding	790	1
Assess PACTS MPO funding model - is it broken ?	480	1
Look at how PACTS/DOT allocates funding -	450	1
Investigate impact fees and developer funding for transportation	330	1
Direct more state funding directly to towns	290	1
Continue to explore earmark funding process	270	2
Consider the addition of more toll roads	250	2
Assess the regionality of invested funds and how to improve it	220	2
Develop a policy to limit use of TIP funds to resolve growth-induced traffic needs	170	3
Explore private/public partnerships	90	4
<u>Process</u>		
Streamline the LAP process and project delivery process	510	1
Focus on how we restructure PACTS and how it can be accomplished- may require legislative a	340	1
Review other MPO governance and programming structures	230	2
Increase our working relationship with legislators - education/marketing & outreach	230	2
Explore impacts of PACTS becoming a TMA after next census	200	3
Use PACTS planning funds to finance aerial photos of whole region every three years	170	3
Enhance PACTS capacity as a single source provider of data services/funding	130	3
Develop a proactive PACTS effort to encourage multi-municipal polices	80	4
Create a library of PACTS "best practices" and use it as a marketing tool in seeking funding	80	4
Explore alternative fuel use	80	4
Establish monthly task list/time table for upcoming yr - time table for goals	10	4
Develop a proactive regional sustainable approach in context of climate change	0	
Enhance relationship between Turnpike & Towns	0	
Review regional ITS opportunities	0	
Map project proposals for the TIP	0	
<u>Technical/Highway</u>		
Improve collector paving and road funding selection process	340	1
Collaborate with MEDOT on design standards for collector paving	280	1
Review application of DOT design standards	240	2
Study Travel Demand Management (TDM) on a regional basis	210	2
Participate actively in proposed east-west highway and land use study	130	3
Study impact of Turnpike planned spurs	120	3
Improve access to Turnpike and create Turnpike regional toll free zone	120	3
Explore regional approach to corridors, and multi-municipal agreements	80	4
Look at increasing overlay projects - increasing maintenance and less construction	80	4
Increase traffic signal coordination	80	4
Improve safety and preserve mobility of I-295	60	4
Develop a regional interstate master plan	50	4
Look at % of funding and life span of roads	40	4
Perform extensive work on access management	10	4
Identify/list PACTS roads that meet MEDOT overlay standards	0	
<u>Transit</u>		
Implement 2007 transit coordination study	520	1
Develop guideline to incorporate transit planning into municipal comprehensive planning process	270	2
Plan/ design & implement a regional map & time table for public use	220	2
Look at more transit hubs	200	3
Plan and encourage transit oriented development	200	3
Develop methodology to implement a regional fare system	130	3
Prioritize roads on transit routes	80	4
Increase transit use to alleviate parking pressures	80	4
Expand radio inter operability	40	4
Study signal preemption opportunities for transit and emergency vehicles	30	4
Explore opportunities at Thompson Point Portland	10	4
Coordinate health care facilities needs in public transit planning/investments	0	
Increase generator back-up to fuel vehicles	0	

TABLE 3 -- STUDIES

*Note: Some of these study proposals are on the "April 3rd" list of "new consultant studies".*

	POINTS	TIER
Investigate impact fees and developer funding for transportation	330	1
Develop guideline to incorporate transit planning into municipal comprehensive planning process	270	2
Study Travel Demand Management (TDM) on a regional basis	210	2
Look at more transit hubs	200	3
Improve access to Turnpike and create Turnpike regional toll free zone	120	3
Study impact of Turnpike planned spurs	120	3
Develop regional commuter bike routes - safety/security/standards	80	4
Explore regional approach to corridors, and multi-municipal agreements	80	4
Increase traffic signal coordination	80	4
Explore alternative fuel use	80	4
Develop a regional interstate master plan	50	4
Study signal preemption opportunities for transit and emergency vehicles	30	4
Explore opportunities at Thompson Point Portland	10	4
Revisit bike/ped plans	0	0