

PACTS

Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Committee



Technical Committee Meeting Notice

March 11, 2008
8:30 a.m.

PACTS, 68 Marginal Way, Portland

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of February 12th Meeting
3. Collector Road Assessment Review with Gorrill-Palmer
4. Pros and Cons of Municipal Funding of Collector Rehabilitations
5. Future Agenda Items
6. Information Items and Other Business
7. Adjourn.

Next Meeting: April 8th at 8:30 a.m.

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PACTS Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
February 12th, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jennie Franceschi, Vice-chair; Mike Bolduc, Saco; Jim Carmody, Portland; Biddeford; Dan Jellis, Yarmouth; Gary Lamb (for Mary Ann Conroy), Old Orchard Beach; Dale Mitchell, Policy Committee Appointee; Adam Ogden, Cumberland; Skip Varney, Falmouth; Jim Wendel, Scarborough.

Absent: Dana Anderson, So. Portland; Bob Burns, Gorham, Chair; Don Chaisson, No. Yarmouth; Eric Dudley, Westbrook; Doug Fortier, Windham; Bob Hough, MaineDOT; Mike Laberge, MaineDOT; Jonathan LaBonte, MTA; Josh Mack, SMRPC; Bob Malley, Cape Elizabeth; John Perry, FHWA; Al Presgraves, Freeport; Dave Redlefsen, Public Transit; David Willauer, GPCOG.

Staff and Guests: Carl Eppich, PACTS; Sue McIntyre, GPCOG; Paul Niehoff, PACTS; Robert Wagner, Portland resident.

1. **Call to Order.** Jennie Franceschi, Vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.
2. **Adoption of minutes of January 8th, 2008 meeting**
Dan Jellis made a motion for approval of the January 8th, 2008 minutes, seconded by Dale Mitchell... Vote taken. All were in favor. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Collector Road Condition Study**

Paul Niehoff updated the group on the PACTS Region Collector Road Assessment Study. The “sub-committee” that has been working on the consultant selection process has chosen Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers, Inc. as consultant to complete the study. A contract will be executed. Gorrill-Palmer will be talking with individual communities in the region to get historical road data. Towns should be hearing from them soon. Provisions in the RFP also include that the consultant must meet with the PACTS Technical Committee at least three times. Subsequently, Gorrill-Palmer will be asked to attend either the next March PACTS Technical Committee meeting or the April meeting to give an overview of the process. Dale asked if the consultant could put together a list of questions that they might be asking the communities and to disperse the list at the next meeting.

Paul pointed out that this would be an ongoing process. There are many “unknowns” as to how to decide to use information in relation to the Highway Adequacy Index. DOT has not yet determined what information they will use for that report. Paul added that he now has access to DOT data on his laptop. Gorrill-Palmer will probably be accessing that data from the DOT office in Augusta. Access to the video from ARAN will also be available and be a big benefit.

Steve Colson, from MaineDOT, who runs the Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD), will be attending the PACTS Technical Committee meeting in April. He will provide a presentation on the coordination of traffic control focusing on the use of the FWD during night time hours vs. using it during the daytime. He may also want to meet individually with each town concerning this topic.

It has been suggested that we invite Gerald Varney to attend one of our upcoming meetings to talk about the federal highway development process and the role it plays in the DOT process with LAPs. Focus would be on such questions as to why does this process take so long before it goes to construction? It was noted that there is a need to have good, open and continuous dialogue with both the DOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Paul distributed copies of the Draft Minutes of the MPO Quarterly Meeting that was held at the MaineDOT Office in Augusta on January 16th, 2008 and provided a brief overview of the meeting.

Among items noted were:

- MaineDOT is soliciting projects within the MPO area and also outside the MPO area. GPCOG will be receiving those.
- MaineDOT will select safety and bridge projects based on staff engineering assessments.
- Field reviews of candidate projects by MaineDOT and the MPOs
- MaineDOT has been working on drafting three-party agreements for all projects. It basically means that a town would have a “kick-off” meeting between all parties involved in a project. Once that has been done, the project then moves forward.

4. 06/07 Project Transfers

PACTS has been working during this past month to transfer funds on the list of projects described in the meeting packet, listed under “Agenda Item 4”, for MaineDOT to bid the projects. There currently is approximately \$225,000 in the holding PIN. There are also a few projects that have not been updated yet and that do not have any estimates. When these bids come in we will know if the holding PIN balance stays or gets smaller.

5. Follow-up to September letter to John Dority

Many positive improvements have been made in areas such as project meetings, QA/QC requirements, project development and the LAP process. We are also moving toward the Highway Adequacy Report. Further discussions on a strategy to address design exceptions will be needed and what other methods could be utilized to continue to build safe but cost effective projects. We will need to decide what our next steps are and if more discussions with the DOT and the Federal Highway are needed with regards to modern design standards. It was noted that the newly established “kick-off” meetings could prove helpful in the initial stages of a project before it has gone too far in the process. However, some felt that the budget should first be established. Paul pointed out that we need to understand the process within the established parameters.

6. Information Items, Status Report and Other Business

1. ***Update on the PACTS Reorganization*** - Paul distributed and provided an overview of a handout entitled “PACTS Transition Team’s February 8th meeting results”. Following a little more work on the details, these recommendations will be submitted to the PACTS Policy Committee in March for endorsement.
2. ***February 28th HMA Technical Training Sessions*** - There was excellent response to the HMA Technical Training Sessions that will be held on February 28th, 2008 in Freeport. One session will be held in the morning and one will be held in the afternoon. Each session is expected to last about 3 to 3 ½ hours.
3. ***Passenger Boarding Data (enclosed)*** - A summary of the Greater Portland Passenger Boardings was provided to the group in the meeting packet. Totals show an increase in boardings from 2006 to 2007.
4. ***John Perry has accepted a position in the Idaho Division Office*** as their new Field Operations Team Leader. It is not known who will fill his position.
5. ***PACTS now has remote access to some MaineDOT data including pavement condition data and ARAN data and video, (as discussed earlier).***

6. *Staff has met with John Melrose and Mark Eyerman to discuss the New Transportation Funding Opportunities Study.* This was a PACTS Planning Committee initiative to look at alternatives to funding in the PACTS region. It pertains to the potential for impact fees on a regional basis as well as locally. John Melrose and Mark Eyerman are currently collaborating on proposals to do that study.

Carl Eppich provided a brief summary of the High Priorities Project public forum to be held this evening.

Robert Wagner noted his concern that there is not enough transit options coming in from the west and that it would make more sense to implement bus transit service in that area. He added that he also realizes that more funding is needed.

7. **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Agenda Item 3. Collector Road Review with Gorrill-Palmer

Gorrill-Palmer will be discussing the protocol for our collector assessment including what information will be requested from the members related to improvement data. We will also have an opportunity for open discussion about the study.

Our April meeting will continue that discussion with Steve Colson of the MaineDOT who will talk about the FWD in general and coordinating traffic control needs specifically with the individual communities.

Agenda Item 4. Pros and Cons of Municipal Funding of Collector Rehabilitations

Of late there have been a number of “side bar” discussions about whether or not it is beneficial for a municipality to take on funding, paving or otherwise rehabilitating collector roads without the use of state or federal funds. There are a number of reasons the concept warrants consideration, namely the cost associated with the work and the impact to the corridor and adjacent properties. There are both advantages and disadvantages to this approach which should be discussed before final decisions are made.

Agenda Item 5. Future Agenda Items

On April’s agenda will be two important items for review and discussion:

- a. Gerald Varney and others from FHWA (and Shawn Smith and Todd Pelletier of MaineDOT) will be reviewing the federal process of project development. We can expect this to be an important discussion to help us better understand some of the reasons why projects can take so long to develop and construct.
- b. Steve Colson from DOT will be giving a brief overview of the FWD process and would like to discuss ways to minimize traffic disruption during data the acquisition process.

Agenda Item 6. - Information and Other Business

1. Carl Eppich will be dusting off Julia's traffic signal study with the intent on moving forward on completing the recommendations. At a future meeting we will discuss the finding and determine the next steps.
2. We are expecting to review the intersection set a side applications during the May meeting.
3. In response to a question/comment in our January meeting; does the Tech Committee want to receive the Planning and Policy Committees' agendas?