



A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Administered by Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

KACTS  
Members:

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike  
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine  
Planning and  
Development  
Commission

Public  
Transportation  
Providers

## Policy Committee Meeting Agenda Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom

In attendance: James Bellissimo (Berwick), Jeff Brubaker (Eliot), Adam Causey (Kittery), Dave Rich (Kittery), Dylan Smith (York), Dean Lessard (York) Tom Reinauer (YCCAC), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority), Steve Cole (MaineDOT), Carlos Pena (FHWA), Jon Kachmar (Eastern Trail), Stephanie Carver (SMPDC/KACTS), Dean Williams (SMPDC/KACTS).

Zoom meeting Access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86981035337?pwd=S3I3Y0Z2ZjI4WnR5WmFybkhJNVJKdz09>

Meeting ID: 869 8103 5337

Passcode: 725306

Dial in number:1 (646) 558 8656

### 1. Welcome

Chair Dylan Smith opened the meeting at 1:02PM

### 2. Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2022 KACTS Committee meeting

Steve Cole made a motion to approve the minutes as amended with minor edits on pages 2 and 3, seconded by Dean Lessard.

Motion passed unanimously. Abstentions – James Bellissimo, Dean Lessard, Tom Reinauer

### 3. MPO Performance Measures and Targets

In 2016, the Federal Highway Administration implemented the final rule on the Highway Safety Improvement Program, requiring State DOT's and Metropolitan Planning Organizations to develop safety performance targets to be published annually.

Stephanie provided a brief overview of the development of the safety performance targets and how the MPO incorporates those targets into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Fatality and Serious injury data was shared and discussed with attention to the pedestrian and bicycle numbers. James Bellissimo noted how heartbreaking it is when there is a fatality on a road in town and he would appreciate investigating how KACTS can invest more in safety improvements to prevent fatal crashes. Steph noted that Maine's Highway Safety Office is currently updating their Highway Safety Plan. Jeff Brubaker noted that the past three years have trended downward and if we used those to set a target it would be lower than the suggested targets, using 5-year averages. Steph pointed out that annually there are so few fatal and serious injury crashes in the region, that just one bad crash can cause a major fluctuation from year to year.



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Dean Williams added that nationally the fatal crash numbers fluctuate year-to-year due to so many variables present and that investments in infrastructure may only be able to reduce a fraction of the fatal and serious injury crashes. Dean Lessard asked what the purpose of the targets are for MPOs. Dean Williams answered that the State currently receives a portion of Federal Highway (FHWA) funds for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which are meant for safety improvements. If the State meets their targets, then they may transfer some funds out of the HSIP program and into other FHWA eligible expenses like paving which is not considered a safety improvement. If they state doesn't meet their targets, then they can only use HSIP funding for HSIP eligible projects.

Tom Reinauer made a motion to adopt the regional targets inline with the States safety performance targets as presented in the TIP. James Bellissimo seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

#### 4. **MaineDOT 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Attachment C)**

Steph noted that the KACTS Transportation Improvement Program had been presented at the previous KACTS meeting and then released for a 15-day comment period. There were no public comments received.

The FHWA and FTA may not release the federal funds for any of these projects until they have gone through a public comment period and are endorsed by the KACTS governing body. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the KACTS Policy Committee voted to release the TIP for the 10-day comment period, which was completed on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The draft TIP and errata sheet are attached for review and approval. Once the documents are approved by KACTS, Maine DOT will initiate their public comment period for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Dean Lessard made a motion to approve the 2022-2025 TIP, seconded by Stephen Cole. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

#### 5. **KACTS UPWP Planning Study Proposals**

Steph explained that the KACTS UPWP currently includes \$73,000 budgeted under task 10 for planning studies. KACTS staff asks municipalities to submit ideas for planning studies by April 8<sup>th</sup>. Selected studies will require at least a 5% municipal match. She noted that if a town has any specific studies in mind that they can reach out to staff to discuss further and scope a project and we will bring it back to the board at the next meeting. She added that in the previous UPWP the Route 236 corridor was studied. James Bellissimo stated that the Route 4 corridor could be a good candidate for a study. Steph pointed out that



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there is slightly more funding available so there may be potential to complete two studies. If there are multiple proposals, then staff will develop a process for KACTS to prioritize them. Tom Reinauer noted that there may have been some previous studies along Route 4 and Steph said staff would reach out to MaineDOT to investigate. Stephanie and James agreed to discuss the potential study and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

### 6. Eastern Trail Alliance Presentation

Executive Director Jon Kachmar introduced himself and provided KACTS with an update on fundraising and current and upcoming ET projects. He broke down the ongoing progress into four categories:

- Close the gap: Connecting the northern off-road section of the trail between Scarborough and South Portland, including construction of a new bridge.
- Over the River: Connecting sections of trail between Saco and Biddeford including a bridge over the Saco River.
- Blaze the Trail South: 11 miles of trail from Biddeford to South Berwick
- Operations and Maintenance: parking, trail repair, user counts

He continued to discuss the need to start planning for the southern sections of trail connecting to Kittery. He noted that initial studies planned for on-road trail through South Berwick, Eliot, Kittery and eventually to the Route 1 Memorial bridge connecting to Portsmouth. Jon pointed out that many things have changed, including property ownership and visibility of the trail. He shared data on the economic impacts of the trail, that could benefit towns to the south if the trail is extended to Kittery. If there was interest in a planning charette, it could bring value to future planning. He also stated that towns currently not on the route such as York and Berwick could also begin planning on ways to connect to the trail. Carlos Pena pointed out that the new federal Transportation Funding legislation includes additional funding for bike/ped infrastructure and to keep an eye out for funding opportunities.

### 7. MaineDOT Updates

Stephen Cole updated the KACTS on the Village Partnership Initiative grant program for transportation improvements in villages and downtowns.

### 8. Municipal Project Updates

#### Kittery

Dave Rich noted that the Whipple Street sidewalk would be awarded soon and the Walker and Wentworth project was still on hold.



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Dean Lessard stated that DOT was continuing work on the village revitalization project.

Berwick

James Bellissimo updated the group on the Saw Mill Hill project. He noted that the project would include pedestrian improvements and that a pedestrian was just recently struck by a vehicle at the intersection. He added that the project would also include bike lanes and the Town was just notified that they will be receiving a \$3 million earmark for additional improvements surrounding downtown.

Eliot

Jeff Brubaker stated that Elliot just went out to bid for the first Phase of their water and sewer project on Route 236. He added that the Town has allocated ARPA money to develop the towns top two active transportation projects which he anticipated the RFP going out later this month.

Carlos Pena stated that will be moving on from his position at FHWA and he was thanked by members of the committee for all his years of assistance to the region.

**9. Other Business**

Adam Causey was asked to provide an update on the large, proposed development in Kittery. He pointed out that the development is in the early, sketch plan phase. He stated the project will be phased out over multiple years and he anticipates that there will be changes to the proposal as it moves forward.

Tom Reinauer stated that they would not be running the beach trolley this upcoming summer season.

Steph pointed out that Congresses Omnibus bill had just been passed which included earmarks in the region. Senator King’s office is currently soliciting projects for Congressionally Designated Spending (earmarks) and to reach out to staff for assistance with applications.

**10. Other News/Next meeting**

Steph stated the next meeting would likely be at the end of April and KACTS would need to discuss future project funding in the region. Meeting time and location are TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.