



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 Minutes Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

In attendance: James Bellissimo (Berwick), Jeff Brubaker (Eliot), David Rich (Kittery), Jason Garnham (Kittery), Denise Clavette (South Berwick), Dean Lessard (York), Dylan Smith (York), Tom Reinauer (YCCAC), Jennifer Grant (MaineDOT), Pete Coughlan (MaineDOT), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority), Stephanie Carver (SMPDC/KACTS), Dean Williams (SMPDC/KACTS), Jennifer Williams (FHWA)

Zoom meeting Access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86279835514?pwd=Q1JyU3RLbDZFTTF4ZFUzcTJlcUdUUU09>

Meeting ID: 862 7983 5514

Passcode: 203793

Dial in number:1 (646) 558 8656

1. Welcome

Dylan Smith, KACTS chairmen, opened the meeting at 3:03 PM

2. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from the January 24, 2023 KACTS Committee meeting

Dean Lessard made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tom Reinauer.

Motion passed. Abstentions: Jason Garnham & Steve Cole.

4. KACTS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Steph provided a summary on the TIP document. She explained that concurrent with MaineDOT's annual update of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), KACTS updates the regional Transportation Improvement Program. The FHWA and FTA may not release the federal funds for any of these projects until the STIP and MPO TIPs have gone through a public comment period and are endorsed by the governing bodies. On January 24th, the KACTS Policy Committee voted to release the TIP for the 10-day comment period, which was completed on February 26th. The draft TIP is 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).

SMPDC's TIP can be reviewed [here](#). Comments were received and addressed from COAST (see COAST memo with KACTS comments attached).



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Tom Reinauer made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dean Lessard. The motion passed. Abstentions: James Bellissimo, Jeff Brubaker, SMPDC

5. Changes to Urbanized areas- Pete Coughlan, MaineDOT

Pete Coughlan, MaineDOT’s Community Services Division Director, provided an update on the new 2020 Federal Urban Areas, not to be mistaken with the State’s urban compact zones. Consistent with our region’s population and development growth over the last decade, the Portsmouth Urban Area has expanded to include Ogunquit, Wells, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport as a result of the 2020 Census. Pete explained the collaborative process between MaineDOT, KACTS, and municipal representatives to smooth the Federal Urban Areas (UAs). This process involves expanding the recently published map UAs which cannot be shrunken down. In addition to adjusting the Urban Area boundaries, this process also involves reaffirming federal functional roadway classification and making any adjustments as needed. It was determined that KACTS staff would discuss internally how to approach the urban are boundary smoothing and federal functional classification review. Most likely the process will start with the existing MPO towns before communicating with the four towns (Ogunquit, Wells, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport) that are new to the Portsmouth Urban Area and KACTS MPO. The approach will be finalized at the next KACTS meeting so that the process can begin with Pete (MaineDOT) this summer.

Denise Clavette, questioned how the Urban Area would will impact South Berwick if it’s no longer in the Portsmouth Urban Area. Dean Williams replied that South Berwick is not expected to be “dropped out” of the MPO, and that South Berwick has now become an independent Urban Area under 50,000 population. With the Urban Area boundary smoothing and adjustments to the federal functional classification, parts of South Berwick may end up back in the Portsmouth Urban Area or the Dover-Rochester Urban Area.

Dylan Smith questioned how this would change funding levels? Pete responded that his job is to work with the MPO on the boundaries and the federal functional classifications and that a different MaineDOT department will handle MPO funding. Steph Carver followed that the MPO planning, and capital funding is formula based, and that the KACTS region had the most significant changes of any MPO in the state so once the boundaries and road classifications are final, we would expect some changes to the formula funding.

6. MaineDOT Family of Plans Discussion- Jen Grant, Director of Public Outreach and Planning

Jen Grant, MaineDOT Director of Public Outreach and Planning will update the Committee on the MaineDOT Family of Plans. She explained that the plans were put out for public



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comment at the end for 2022 and the public comment period closed at the end of January. Over 200 comments were received.

7. **MaineDOT Updates**

Steph Carver stated that MaineDOT will be finalizing the budget adjustments for MPO funding over the month and that KACTS will need to meet in April or May to approve the new budget increases.

8. **Municipal Project Updates**

Kittery – Dave Rich provided a brief update on local transportation projects including the Walker Wentworth project which is slated to go out to bid in the fall, and the Whipple Street sidewalk project which should be complete this spring. He also noted that there will be significant paving work happening on Route 1 this spring.

York – Dean Lessard stated that the York Village improvement project was still in the RoW process but that the two permanent easements were expected to be relatively easy to obtain.

Eliot – Jeff Brubaker updated the committee on the State Rd and Beech Road Bike improvements which are currently under design.

Berwick – James Bellissimo informed everyone about non-KACTS project known as The Edge development and some stormwater upgrades currently underway.

9. **Other Business/ Next Meeting Date**

Steph noted that KACTS would need to meet in April or May to approve the budget adjustment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm.