

KACTS

Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System

The Metropolitan Planning
Organization (MPO) for the
Kittery Urbanized Area

Maximizing opportunities to enhance the movement of goods and people through the Gateway to Maine

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11 at 9:00 a.m.

**Berwick Town Hall
11 Sullivan Street
Berwick, ME 03901**

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine
PDC

Public
Transportation
Providers

Voting members present: Adam Causey (Kittery), Chris Mann (MaineDOT), Tom Reinauer (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), Dave Rich (Kittery), Dylan Smith (York), Robert Currie (York County Community Action Corporation), Jon St. Pierre (South Berwick), Steve Eldridge (Berwick), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority)

Staff & Guests: Eric Sanderson (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), James Bellissimo (Berwick)

1. Welcome/Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Dylan Smith at 9:03

2. Approval of Minutes from the July 18, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Steve Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes. Jon St. Pierre seconded. No further comments/discussion. Motion passed 9-0-0.

3. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for calendar years 2020 & 2021

- Review of draft UPWP and possible approval to send to MaineDOT and FHWA for review

Tom gave an overview of the UPWP, stating that KACTS would have the same funding for 2020-2021 as was allocated for the current 2018-2019 plan, with the exception of approximately \$800 in Federal Transit Administration funds. KACTS staff rates will be submitted to MaineDOT by November 1st, 2019 and the UPWP needs to be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration and MaineDOT after approval by the KACTS Policy Committee.

The Committee discussed each planning task, noting the municipal assistance task was particularly useful. KACTS staff are available for municipal assistance upon request (although this is a smaller task in the UPWP). For municipal planning projects, if a town plans to submit a project, the contribution from the locality will be 5%. Project submittal forms will be distributed in late Fall.

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Bob Currie noted the inconsistencies in Special Projects funding on multiple pages, with one page listing \$64,000 in funding and another page listing \$64,185. Tom explained this difference was added into the Administration task, and the document will be amended so both Special Projects amounts match.

Steve Eldridge made a motion to approve the UPWP as amended. The motion was seconded by Chris Mann. The motion passed 8-0-1.

4. Route 236 and Berwick Studies

Both studies as part of the Municipal Planning Projects task have been completed. The Berwick study, which focused on the downtown, recommended the realignment and redesign of Saw Mill Hill at its intersection with School Street. Steve discussed the Envision Berwick Committee's work with a developer to purchase the Prime Tanning property.

The Route 236 Study recommended a center turn lane on a 1.3 mile stretch of Route 236 in Kittery and Eliot with use of island medians to slow traffic. Other options include making Fernald Road north of Route 236 a one way off of Route 236, preventing traffic from coming onto the major route from Fernald Road. Local planning options were also discussed in the study including realigning and closing redundant driveways. This study was done with the assumption that smaller, striping and painting changes could be implemented when MaineDOT repaves Route 236 in 2021. KACTS staff are in communication with the project manager at MaineDOT, however Kittery and South Berwick each want to be involved, with South Berwick submitting information to MaineDOT done through another traffic study.

Consultant workload was discussed as it pertains to performance on municipal projects. Other MPOs have had consultants fall short in some areas due to workload, making the possibility for formal evaluation and review sheets to be utilized.

5. Kittery & Naval Shipyard JLUS update

Tom gave an overview of the work being done by the Joint Land Use Study Working Group, Policy Committee and consultant, Stantec. Stantec hopes to have recommendations from JLUS out by October or November before JLUS Policy Committee Meeting. These concern housing, transportation, land use and economic development with respect to the shipyard and region in southern Maine.

Kittery will meet with new Commnader of Naval Shipyard to provide an update on the project. Thus far, over 1,800 surveys have been collected – 600 from online service MetroQuest and 1,200 of which were distributed and taken internally by shipyard employees or consultants working on base.

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6. Project Updates

Kittery

Dave gave an overview of the following projects:

Government Street – the project is underway, with milling and shimming done the second and third week of September. ADA work will occur shortly thereafter

Whipple Street – Right of Way concerns for sidewalks stalled the project, although easements for utilities have been configured and agreed upon.

Walker and Wentworth Streets – Not much progress, but Tom will reach out to Project Manager at MaineDOT to discuss.

South Berwick

Jon gave an overview of the following projects:

Route 91/236 intersection – 2021 construction is still possible, but property concerns are present for the project, although most property surrounding the intersection is MaineDOT owned.

York

Dylan gave an overview of the following projects:

Route 1 intersection – this is a locally administered project, and MaineDOT has not yet expressed or communicated any concerns regarding current plans for the project to the town

Shortsands Road – the road is complete, except for its intersection with Route 1. The town is aiming to have the road open by Summer of 2020 but scheduling and workload issues could provide a challenge for meeting this timeline.

York Village – the project will likely be out to bid by Spring 2020

Projects in the KACTS Region

Tom discussed the I-95 high bridge replacement in Kittery and Portsmouth. Weekly project meetings and updates are occurring, and lane closures southbound are expected to begin the week of September 9th (Monday-Friday). Northbound closures will begin in December.

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Travel time signs are operational at this point to provide the public with live travel times. Dennett Road southbound will be closed until 2021, but signage has been provided in the area to redirect traffic.

After completion of the project it is expected breakdown travel will be allowed during high volume times, with net metering occurring at Exit 7 northbound in Portsmouth and Exits 1 and 2 southbound in Kittery. Net metering will tie sensors in the roadway to a light, which will control traffic merging onto I-95. The webpage for the project is: buildingabettergateway.com.

7. Other Business

8. Next Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

No meeting date was set as there is no business in front of the KACTS Policy Committee. The Committee may meet in November but any meeting that is scheduled will be coordinated and publicly noticed.