



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
Monday, November 7, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

In attendance: James Bellissimo (Berwick), Jeff Brubaker (Eliot), David Rich (Kittery), Kendra Amaral (Kittery), Denise Clavette (South Berwick), Dylan Smith (York), Tom Reinauer (YCCAC), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority), Jennifer Williams (FHWA), Thomas Morley (Shipyards), Jon Kachmar (Eastern Trail), Stephanie Carver (SMPDC/KACTS), Dean Williams (SMPDC/KACTS),

Meeting ID: 844 1022 4794
Zoom Meeting Access:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84410224794?pwd=892451NDJGMHNMSi9nek9hZz09&from=addon>

Dial in number: 1 (646) 558 8656

1. Welcome

Chair Dylan Smith opened the meeting at 10:03 PM

2. Approval of Minutes from the July 19, 2022 KACTS Committee meeting

David Rich made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tom Reinauer. Motion passed unanimously.

3. KACTS Budget Adjustment

Stephanie reviewed the following budget adjustments to the 2022/23 UPWP:

- \$5,470.05 was left remaining in the previous UPWP in order to pay a final consultant invoice on the Route 236 Corridor Plan. Our current UPWP contract must be amended to include this as rollover funding.
- Move \$10,833.33 from Task 3.2 Transportations Systems Data to Task 7 Ongoing Special Programs/Studies to cover an overage in that task budget.

James Bellissimo made a motion to approve the budget adjustment, seconded by David Rich. Motion passed unanimously

4. IJJA Supplemental FHWA Funding

Stephanie provided an overview of the proposed funding increases for the KACTS MPO. Despite increased federal funding over the last 10-plus years, MaineDOT’s MPO suballocations have remained flat. MaineDOT has acknowledged this concern and is



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committed to developing a new approach that accounts for increases in federal funding levels and distributes funding based on current data such as population and VMT.

PL Funding: Under this new funding approach and considering increases in MPO funding allocations in the new transportation bill, allocations will increase in both the current and future UPWP cycles. Over the past year, staff have worked closely with MaineDOT and the other three MPOs to develop this data-based, formulaic approach for suballocated funding. These conversations have been productive and the MPOs are awaiting additional information from MaineDOT on their suggested data-based approach.

Capital Funding: In September 2022, MaineDOT informed the MPOs of a short-term strategy to help fully fund or complete projects in each MPO's urbanized areas, focusing on those projects with anticipated funding deficits that are immediately ready for construction. The approach proposes to distribute supplemental funding to a selection of MPO-sponsored projects. Under the proposal, following projects would receive funding:

- Kittery Route 103
- York Route 1A- Phase 1
- Berwick Route 9- Saw Mill Road

Although this is not a final proposal, staff will continue to work with MaineDOT to finalize an approach.

5. Final KACTS Transit Assessment

Stephanie provided an overview of the KACTS Regional Transit Assessment, which is now available on SMPDC's website. The assessment looked at challenges and opportunities for transit in our region and was developed in coordination with committee including representatives from York County Community Action (YCCAC), SMPDC and MaineDOT. The assessment includes a comprehensive look at existing transit service, and an analysis of pandemic impacts to those services. The final report also offers recommendations around future priorities to enhance current resources. Here is a link to the plan on our website (scroll towards the bottom of the page): <https://smpdc.org/transportstudies>

Kendra Amaral questioned what the plan would be used for. Stephanie responded that the recommendations section of the plan would be used to apply for funding for new and expanded transit services.

Kendra Amaral made a motion for the KACTS committee to endorse the plan. Tom Reinauer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.



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6. Eastern Trail Updates

Jon Kachmar, ET Executive Director, provided an update of the Kennebunk to N. Berwick engineering design, and the N. Berwick to Kittery PPI efforts that are now underway. The first phase of the planning study would be from North Berwick (Route 9) to South Berwick (Route 236 & Route 91). It is anticipated that it would be completed in about 10 months. The second planning study would be less straight forward and would include feasibility of an off-road route from South Berwick to Memorial Bridge in Kittery, as well as a connection to Mount A. in York. He also noted that the Eastern Trail Alliance had received a donation to cover the local matching cost for the planning studies.

7. SMPDC Updates

Stephanie provided updates on the following:

Title VI- SMPDC Staff have completed required updates to KACTS' Title VI civil rights plan, updating demographic information based on ACS 2016-2020 data and editing some sections of text to make it more accessible to the public. The updated plan has been submitted to Maine DOT and posted on the KACTS website.

JLUS Project- SMPDC has contracted with AECOM to help manage the JLUS Partnership and implement recommendations from the 2019 JLUS Plan. We are currently kicking off a microtransit design, Regional Housing Assessment, and municipal toolkit.

TIM Update-SMPDC is working with MaineDOT and others to reconvene the ME/NH TIM Group.

SMPDC staff Schedule- SMPDC staff will work remote on Friday and the physical office will be closed.

New Hires- SMPDC has hired a Director of Strategic Initiatives, James Rather, formally the Development Review Manager with the City of Portland. In addition, our Sustainability Department has hired Julia Maine as a Sustainability and Resilience Specialist to work closely with Karina Graeter, and Abbie Sherwin.

8. Municipal Project Updates

Kittery – Dave Rich provided a brief update on local transportation projects including the Walker Wentworth project, the Whipple Street sidewalk project, and Route 1 paving.

Berwick – James Bellissimo noted that the Route 4 Safety Study has begun, and data collection was underway.



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Elliot – Jeff acknowledged that MaineDOT had completed substantial paving on Route 236 and constructing the truck weight stations.

Berwick

York – Dylan stated that MaineDOT was continuing work on the York Village project.

Elliot

Stephanie noted the Committee would meet again in January to review and approve the project lists from MaineDOT's STIP. Dylan Smith officially closed the meeting.

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