

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**Kittery Town Hall
200 Rogers Road
Kittery ME 03904**

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine
PDC

Public
Transportation
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Voting members present: Dylan Smith (York), Jon St. Pierre (South Berwick), Chris Mann (MaineDOT), Adam Causey (Kittery), Tom Reinauer (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission); Dana Lee (Eliot), James Bellissimo (Berwick), Dean Lessard (York), Dave Rich (Kittery), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority).

Staff & Guests: Eric Sanderson (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), Rad Nichols (Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation).

1. Welcome/Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Dylan Smith at 10:02 AM

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Chris Mann made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Dave Rich. The motion passed 10-0-0.

3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2020-2023

Tom Reinauer gave a brief update on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which is out for public comment. KACTS is being asked to amend its current TIP to include new project lists from the current STIP. This would help move up the schedule for the Berwick Saw Mill Hill and School Street intersection realignment design and engineering.

The Route 236 repaving project for 2023 was discussed with respect to incorporating recommendations from the joint Kittery-Eliot Route 236 study done in 2019 by Gorrill Palmer. MaineDOT believes the recommendations from the 2019 report will be incorporated into the project, with much coordination with the project manager occurring. The Town of Eliot is coordinating an effort to align the paving project and proposed infrastructure upgrades.

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Dana Lee made a motion to approve an amendment to the current STIP, Seconded by Dean Lessard. Motion passed 10-0-0.

4. Joint Land Use Study updates and next steps

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Tom gave an overview that the final Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was formally presented and received from consultant STANTEC on February 24th. Adam Causey noted the Kittery Select Board would schedule a date for a public workshop involving the JLUS. The first phase of the JLUS is now complete, and the project will be moving into the implementation phase, likely through an implementation committee in March or April.

Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment will come for a meeting regarding the implementation. Issues discussed will include transit to and from surrounding communities.

More short term implementation measures are being pursued (i.e. collaborating with the Shipyard in regional coalitions and working with Rockingham Planning Commission and Strafford Regional Planning Commission in New Hampshire, as well as Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission). KACTS may also consider adding a spot for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on the Policy Committee. The Committee discussed the potential to include the Shipyard as either a voting or non voting member. This may be discussed at a future KACTS Policy Committee meeting, which would require a bylaw amendment if such a route were to be pursued. Another option discussed was adding a standing agenda item for each meeting to discuss the JLUS, implementation and updates from the Shipyard.

The Committee discussed Shipyard workers who are now displaced vanpool/carpool riders. Local property owners have started not allowing workers to park in their lots and carpool or vanpool into the Shipyard. KACTS staff are working with the City of Sanford and MaineDOT to locate a new Park & Ride lot on city owned property. This would hopefully address the carpool/vanpool displacement issue. Much of the issue around finding lots is the liability that the land/lot owners have during winter months for plowing.

Tom also updated the Committee that the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) is updating its route system which would better incorporate the Shipyard and Portsmouth. Rad Nichols gave an update of the current system, which has one morning and one evening route. The Dover/South Berwick/Berwick/Eliot Route 100 Clipper route will continue to operate, and services that will cover the Spaulding Turnpike will be added. Buses will continue from a 6:21 pickup time straight to Gate 1 of the Shipyard.

5. Project Updates

Dean Lessard gave an update on the York Village Project. MaineDOT has approved Preliminary Design Review (PDR) and the plan impacts will be resubmitted in the near future, with advertisement in the Spring, and a start of construction after Labor Day, 2020.

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

For the new connector road, MaineDOT approved the PDR and plan impacts are being completed. Five CMP poles will need to be relocated as part of this project, which will require a 4-8 hour town wide blackout, which the town will work to coordinate with residents and businesses.

Eliot

Kittery

Dave Rich gave an update on the Walker/Wentworth intersection project. The PDR has been approved, but there are drainage impacts that need to be worked out and coordinated with the Library.

South Berwick

For the Whipple street project, the street will be made a two rod road and right of way work will start shortly.

York

The Interstate 95 high level bridge project is on schedule, with northbound and southbound lane closures set to begin in the coming weeks for decking work. Tom will attend a meeting on February 28th which will discuss breakdown lane travel at peak times and ramp metering.

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Rebecca gave an update on the York Toll project. The Electronic toll framing was put up recently. She also noted that exit 45 will be closed from February 29th – March 1st (over the weekend).

Southern Maine
PDC**6. Transition to New Transportation Director**

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Tom Reinauer is leaving KACTS after 27 years of service and moving to the Planning Bureau at MaineDOT. The Transportation Director job posting is available and Southern Maine accepting applications until Friday February 28th.

The Committee would like to thank Tom for his many years of service and the resources, skillset and time he dedicated and brought to KACTS and its communities.

7. Other Business

Rad updated the Committee on a study of the impacts of the Census. NH DOT has forwarded this to COAST, and the report indicates Portsmouth/Rochester/Dover may see increased federal funding as a result of population growth.

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The impact of this increase is unknown for the Maine portion of this urban area.

8. Next meeting Date and Agenda Items

The next meeting will be scheduled after the new Transportation Director starts. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

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