

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

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
This meeting was held virtually via Zoom

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine
PDC

Public
Transportation
Providers

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85933108906?pwd=OU9BMDFvei9jbVZ6N0g4ZE5aSDRqdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3310 8906

Passcode: 068758

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Voting members present: Dylan Smith (York), Steve Cole (MaineDOT), Adam Causey (Kittery), Stephanie Carver (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), Dana Lee (Eliot), Dave Rich (Kittery), Dean Lessard (York), Bob Currie (York County Community Action Corporation), Rebecca Grover (Maine Turnpike Authority), James Bellissimo (Berwick).

Staff & Guests: Eric Sanderson (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), , Tom Reinauer (MaineDOT), Carlos Pena (Federal Highway Administration).

1. Welcome

Chair Dylan Smith opened the meeting at 10:00 AM

2. Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2021 KACTS Committee Meeting

Motion made by Dean Lessard, Seconded by Adam Causey to accept the minutes as written. Motion passes 10-0-0.

3. KACTS 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

MaineDOT and KACTS annually submit the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the KACTS Transportation Improvement Program to the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations. 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 have been endorsed by the KACTS governing body. On February 9th, the KACTS Policy Committee voted to release the TIP for the 10-day comment period,

KACTS

Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System

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

which was completed on February 24th. The draft TIP and the errata sheet are attached for review and approval. Once the documents are endorsed by KACTS, Maine DOT will initiate their public comment period for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Proposed Action: Approve the KACTS 2021-2024 TIP.

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine
PDC

Public
Transportation
Providers

Stephanie Carver gave an overview of the TIP. A motion was made by Dana Lee to approve the 2021-2024 TIP as written, Seconded by Dean Lessard. The motion passes 10-0-0.

4. Draft Scope for CARES Act Funding- For Information Only

Last year, the MaineDOT received funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist the region's transit agencies with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic to its services. \$115,000 was allocated to the KACTS MPO for transit planning, with \$50,000 dedicated to funding a transit feasibility task in the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Implementation effort. The remaining funds will be used perform municipal outreach, assess baseline demographic and transit data for the region, and describe the short- and long-term impacts of COVID to our regional transit network. It is anticipated this work will help inform our MPO's transit planning activities in the next UPWP.

\$115,000 in funding has been allocated to KACTS in CARES Act funds, \$50,000 of which will be used for the transit task of the Joint Land Use Study at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The study will look at feasibility of enhancing and funding transit between Sanford and Kittery. The remaining \$65,000 are intended to incorporate COVID-19 issues into transit planning assistance in the region. KACTS has been in discussion with Bob Currie at YCCAC of what some of the priorities should be. Data collection, and overall understanding of travel patterns in the region are being considered.

Bob expressed interest in reaching out to municipalities to better understand needs and opportunities for transit connections. A 50% drop in ridership is transpiring due to less demand and need for social distancing on buses. KACTS hopes to use this opportunity to expand transit service in the region and get those conversations going based on data driven solutions.

5. Municipal Project Updates

Municipal and state agency representatives will provide updates on local transportation projects.

Dean Lessard gave an overview of the Route 1 and Short Sands intersection access road project. Mast arms are being manufactured and shipped, so the town is optimistic to have the signal up and operational by the end of April.

Dana Lee gave an update on the engineering being done for sewer and water expansion on Route 236. That work will go through March, with contractors being brought on to do the physical work come summer.

KACTS
Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System

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

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike
Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine
PDC

Public
Transportation
Providers

Dave rich updated the Committee on the Whipple Street project in Kittery, which is wrapping up Right of Way process in June, and the town is hoping to have it out to bid for construction in July. The Walker and Wentworth street project is still in Right of Way stage.

Steph updated the Committee on the Route 236 Study in Eliot, noting it should be complete by April. She also discussed Kittery's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, stating the consultant is expected to be brought on come April and work commencing come snow melt in spring. Steph discussed the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as well. The JLUS steering committee is working on putting together a housing forum with stakeholders in May, which the KACTS Committee will be invited to. There will be an affordable housing toolkit developed as part of that effort.

Tom gave an update on staff changes on MaineDOT. Steve Cole will be the planner for KACTS, as changes to the Planning Bureau at MaineDOT went into effect on 2/22. He will be the primary staff liaison from MaineDOT to KACTS. If anyone is interested, more formal information can be requested from Steph Carver at scarver@smpdc.org which includes an updated MaineDOT organizational chart and a Planning Bureau Strategic Plan for the Department.

Tom also noted that the MPO guide is being updated as well, and will be available to KACTS and other MPO's by March 8th.

6. Other Business

Steph gave an overview of a draft letter from the other three Maine MPO's that calls for KACTS to sign onto it. The letter is addressed to Maine's Congressional Delegation (Senators Susan Collins and Angus King), asking them to support the American Rescue Plan, which includes \$30.5 million in emergency public transportation funding. The letter goes into the impacts of COVID-19 on transit, its ridership, and municipalities' ability to contribute to local transit agencies. There is an unclear path forward for transit and the letter asks for guidance and support via the federal bill.

Dana Lee made a motion that KACTS support the letter, and authorizes Chair, Dylan Smith's signature on the letter.

Bob noted YCCAC was also contacted by PACTS. The letter will be signed by YCCAC as well.

The motion passes 9-1-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 PM