

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, May 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom

KACTS MEMBERS

Berwick

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81343875937?pwd=WnNJYXJGWUdsNnZzR2kyZGpWUGt0UT09>

Eliot

Kittery

Meeting ID: 813 4387 5937

Passcode: 766135

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

South Berwick

York

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

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MaineDOT

Staff & Guests: Eric Sanderson (Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission), Thomas Morley (Portsmouth Naval Shipyard)

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PDC

1. Welcome

Chair Dylan Smith opened the meeting at 10:00 AM

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2. Approval of Minutes from the March 4, 2021 KACTS Committee Meeting

Motion made by Bob Currie, Seconded by Rebecca Grover to accept the minutes as written. Motion passes 9-0-1.

3. RFP for CARES Transit 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

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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 as well as inform the next update of the region's Long Term Transportation Plan.

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Stephanie Carver gave an update on MaineDOT's effort to develop a Transit Plan for the state. The RFP will be finalized in June and likely out for proposals over the Summer.

Berwick

4. Project Candidates for KACTS Funding for CY 2024 Allocation – Discussion Item

Eliot

For CY 2024, KACTS will receive an estimated federal allocation of \$636,023, and a state allocation of approximately \$79,502. Including the 10% local match required of \$79,502, we need to program a total of \$795,027 for CY 2024. The KACTS WIN has a total of \$126,947.63 but only \$55,395.13 is available. MaineDOT recommends KACTS maintains a minimum \$71,552.5 in reserve (10% of the annual allocation), a difference of about \$16,000.

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The following projects have been submitted:

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- a) Project Construction- Berwick Saw Mill Hill Road and Route 9/School Street intersection improvements - The Town of Berwick requests an estimated **\$811,000** to fund construction of phase three of a multi-phased project. The PDR was funded by KACTS in FY22 and is scheduled to be completed this month. The current budget request is based on the draft PDR circulated to SMPDC and Berwick last month.

MaineDOT

- b) Project Design - Eliot 236 Corridor Project Design- This request is to provide preliminary engineering for recommended improvements to Route 236 from the Kittery Town line to Beech Rd as identified in The KACTS Route 236 traffic and Safety Study-August 2019. The estimated request for the design is \$150,000 (Project application attached)

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- c) Budget Deficit- Kittery Whipple Road Sidewalk- The Whipple Road sidewalk work is a previously approved project by KACTS. Original cost estimates are now higher than original figures. MDOT staff have suggested the Town return to KACTS and request additional funds of \$207,972 to cover the overage. The total project cost increased from \$984,730 to \$1,244,695, and the Town's match would increase from \$196,946 to \$248,939.

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KACTS staff has performed preliminary scoring for the Berwick and Eliot requests:

	Berwick	Eliot
Scorer 1	83	75
Scorer 2	93	88
Scorer 3		
Average	88	82
Rank	Project	Avg. Score
1	Berwick	88
2	Eliot	82

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Proposed Action: Select projects for the CY 2024 KACTS Allocation.

Steph summarized the 2024 Allocation of approximately \$795,000, including a 10% state, and 10%, local match. Three projects are proposed by Berwick, Eliot and Kittery. Berwick is seeking funds for construction of Saw Mill Hill/School Street intersection, which will have PDR finalized shortly, Eliot is seeking design funds for safety upgrades as a result of the Route 236 Corridor Safety Study from 2019 completed by Gorrill Palmer and KACTS, and Kittery is seeking additional funding to cover excess project costs for the Whipple Road intersection project.

Timing of funding allocations was discussed, with Steph clarifying funds can be interchanged between projects, but that most funding is scheduled and appropriated for the long term. Projects need to begin construction within two years of funding. Possible earmarks from federal stimulus funds, which are not guaranteed, were also discussed.

James Bellissimo gave an overview of the Berwick Saw Mill Hill/School Street intersection. Questions asked ranged from cost overruns to possible earmarking to MaineDOT traffic permitting. Berwick will be responsible for all overruns for the project should any occur and permitting will happen simultaneously with the development of the Berwick Prime Tanning parcel.

Jeff Brubaker summarized safety recommendations on Route 236 in Eliot from the Route 236 Safety Corridor Study, including a center turn lane and intersection upgrades. The Town is asking for funds for design of the upgrades. A MaineDOT paving project on Route 236 is concurrent on this stretch of road, and Eliot and KACTS are coordinating with the Department on that project to potentially include low-cost painting related upgrades that could be made to improve safety.

Dave Rich gave an overview of the Kittery overruns.

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The Committee decided to return to project selection upon review of further detail at the next meeting.

5. Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Implementation Update

The last JLUS Steering Committee meeting was May 3rd. The Consultants presented transit service expansion scenarios providing service to Sanford, and potential ridership data related to the shipyard and other regional employers along the corridor. The JLUS Team also hosted a housing panel presentation with Urban Land Institute of Boston (ULI) highlighting opportunities and challenges around potential development sites in Berwick and Kittery. The event was recorded and will be posted on SMPDC's website.

Steph discussed several regional projects, including Berwick downtown redevelopment, and two sites in Kittery that are being redeveloped for housing. Site visits were held with ULI panelists consisting of housing experts and developers from Boston. The next day, stakeholders were interviewed in the Kittery and Berwick areas with connections to the sites, including nonprofits and abutters. A presentation was made with initial recommendations, and a report is forthcoming on these efforts.

The study is preparing to wrap up in December.

6. MaineDOT Report

MaineDOT staff will provide an update on any MaineDOT projects, policies, or plans.

Steve Cole gave an update on Governor Mills' plan for American Rescue Plan funding, which covers highways and bridges. There are also funds for climate change adaptation and vehicle charging, all of which need to go through the State Legislature.

A \$100 Million Transportation Bond will be in front of the Legislature for approval to go on the November Ballot.

7. Municipal Project Updates

Municipal representatives will provide updates on local transportation projects.

Jeff Brubaker gave an update on walking and biking updates being surveyed in Eliot.

Kittery updated the Committee on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan study. A kickoff meeting was held last week, and that effort will be continuing into the Fall.

Dean Lessard noted the Town of York will be opening Route 1/York Sands Road intersection on Friday, May 28th, 2021, and a ribbon cutting will be held shortly before. In York Village, Right of

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Way and survey issues are being reviewed.

8. Other Business/Future Meeting Dates

Another meeting will be held in the summer (likely July).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40AM.

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