

MEMORANDUM

To: Route 1 Corridor Coalition and Interested Parties

From: Josh Mack, Transportation Planner

Date: November 21, 2006

RE: Meeting Notes from Route 1 Corridor Meeting on November 15, 2006

Those in attendance included Steve Burns – York Planner; Kathy Chase – State Representative; Muriel Freedman – Ogunquit Planning Board; Michael Huston – Wells Planner; Tom Reinauer – SMRPC; Rick Rossiter – Kittery Public Works Director; James Spiller – Wells Selectman; Conrad Welzel – Maine Turnpike Authority; Steve Workman – Eastern Trail Management District. The meeting was held at the Ogunquit Dunaway Center.

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Committee Updates

Staff updated the committee on several activities that have occurred since the last Route One Corridor Coalition meeting.

- *Traffic Incident Management Meeting*
 - This group met on October 10, and came up with several different items that they felt could be worked on. Tom said that the next meeting would be the first week of December (this meeting has since been scheduled for December 6 and 12:00pm at the Kittery Town Hall), and the Kittery Route 1 Bypass bridge problem will most likely be discussed. Meeting notes from October 10 will be sent out shortly.
- *Updated Municipal Project List*
 - A revised list of projects (past/present/future) along Route 1 was distributed and reviewed by the Committee. Steve Burns had a question on the I-95 Spur project, and what is meant by the status of “Closed – Acceptance Received”. Tom said that was a new one, and he would check with MaineDOT. It could have been mislabeled.
 - Jim Spiller pointed out that the Route 1/Route 109 intersection in Wells is not listed. Tom explained that it could have been listed as a Route 109 project, and might not have been picked up in the search. He will check with MaineDOT on this as well.
 - The Committee asked for a revised map with all of the projects depicted. The map will be prepared for the next meeting in January.
- *Kittery Bridge Update*
 - Staff gave a brief update on the closure of the Route 1 Bypass (Sarah Mildred Long) bridge between Kittery and Portsmouth. New Hampshire DOT is taking the lead on the repairs, although MaineDOT is also assisting in the effort. The main power cable underwater was damaged, and dive teams will be assessing the damage in the next couple of days. MaineDOT has also offered the use of a spare cable, which will be tested to see if it can be used as a temporary solution while a

new cable is produced. The bridge could remain in the “up” position for several months.

- Rick Rossiter said that MaineDOT and the Town of Kittery have worked together to place detour signs for motorists, and it appears to be working as well as can be expected.
- *Strategic Investment Plans*
 - Tom said that these plans were submitted to MaineDOT at the end of October. MaineDOT will be incorporating the Strategic Investment information into the State’s Long Range Transportation Plan. A draft of the Plan should be available in about 2 months.
- *Municipal Land Use Technical Assistance Effort*
 - Tom explained that Donna Tippett will be handling this task, and will be contacting Town Planners shortly to discuss ideas. Staff would like to make sure we understand the issues and get more in depth feedback before developing a work plan that can be incorporated in the Action Plan. The action plan items under land use, therefore, are very preliminary at this stage.
- *Town Updates*
 - Jim Spiller mentioned that the idea of connecting College Drive and Route 1 in Wells is gaining some interest. A road design was prepared some years ago, but the funding for the connector was never raised. It was asked that the Committee support the project when appropriate.

3. Review & Feedback of Purpose and Needs Statement

Staff handed out a revised Purpose and Needs Statement. Tom mentioned that there were some minor changes requested by the Committee at a previous meeting. It is also a good idea to review it as the process continues. The Committee decided that the document is good, and no further changes are needed.

4. Review & Feedback of Draft Route One Action Plan

The Committee spent quite a while recommending changes and additions to the Action Plan. Overall, they were very happy with the document. There was a concern that perhaps there are too many items, and that we need to be more realistic about what could be accomplished. Staff explained that no attempt had been made to prioritize the items, or divide them up into short, medium, and long term.

A revised Action Plan will be sent out once the changes have been made. The Committee agreed to spend time at the next meeting prioritizing the list, and perhaps eliminating or postponing those that rank the lowest. They requested that staff develop 4 or 5 priority ideas, such as ease of implementation, available funding, etc. The Committee could use these as guidance in the prioritization exercise.

5. Other Business

Conrad Welzel gave an overview of the origin/destination survey that was conducted in October. The purpose was to track vehicles that may be using Route 1 to avoid the York toll barrier. He is expecting a draft report in the next week, and should be able to give an update at the Committee’s next meeting.

The Committee encouraged the Turnpike Authority to conduct some targeted marketing to the area regarding the EZ Pass system, and the monetary benefits of utilizing the system. Conrad explained that they are currently developing a marketing program, and will take a look at how this could be incorporated.

The next meeting date and time was set for Wednesday, January 24 at 9:30 AM, Wells Town Hall. Primary tasks:

- 1. Review and prioritization of Action Plan items**
- 2. Presentation on the Maine Turnpike origin/destination study (if available)**