

**KITTERY AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

KACTS

**Meeting
Wednesday
May 16, 2007
9:00 AM**

South Berwick Town Hall

Draft Meeting Notes

Voting Members Present: Dan Blanchette – Eliot; Jon Carter – Kittery; Chris Mann – Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT); Terry Oliver – South Berwick; Tom Reinauer – Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (SMRPC)

Others present: Steve Linnell – Greater Portland Council of Governments; Josh Mack – Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (SMRPC); Paul Schumacher – SMRPC

Agenda Items

1. Adoption of 4/27/07 KACTS Policy Committee Minutes

There was a motion by Jon Carter to approve the minutes as written. Terry Oliver seconded the motion. The Committee approved the minutes as written unanimously.

2. Discussion of High Priority Transportation Project List

Paul Schumacher began the meeting asking if the KACTS Committee is interested in working with the federal delegation on a list of needed transportation projects. Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission is considering working with towns to develop a list for the greater SMRPC area, but thought that KACTS might be interested in developing a list also. Paul explained that during the last passage of the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, there was only about \$1 million dollars invested in York County of approximately \$205 million in total earmarks invested in Maine. He noted that other regions in Maine are organizing to develop a high priority project list. The PACTS MPO, for example, has an Earmarks Committee. Paul asked if the KACTS Committee is interested in submitting a list to our U.S. Congressional representatives. If KACTS is interested how does it want to go about determining its high priority projects?

Dan Blanchette said that a better connection with Sanford should be examined. Tom Reinauer noted that Maine DOT is currently pursuing funding for this study.

Terry Oliver suggested that the Alternative Analysis Study for South Berwick be a competitive project.

Tom Reinauer suggested that the Memorial Bridge project should be considered. Jon Carter added that the Sara Long Bridge is in need of work as well.

Chris Mann said that however the group wants to proceed, there should be coordination with MaineDOT.

Josh noted that many project ideas were developed in the Strategic Investment Plans for Corridors of Regional and Economic Significance for Transportation (SIP CREST) for Southern Maine.

There was general consensus that a short list of projects should be developed by staff and then submitted to the Committee for review and feedback. Dan Blanchette suggested that Tom contact KACTS Committee members that are not attending today to solicit their opinion on the development of a High Priority Project list.

3. Maine Clean Communities Program

Steve Linnell gave a presentation and passed out a handout on the Maine Clean Communities Program. The program has been up and running for about 10 years. The program's primary goals are petroleum reduction and energy security. The program is fuel neutral—and promotes many different kinds of alternative fuels. Steve gave a presentation on different alternative fuel technologies including propane, natural gas, biodiesel and ethanol. He explained that alternative fuels are gaining momentum in Maine. The following companies have adopted or are planning on developing fleets that use alternative fuel technology: METRO (transit service for Greater Portland), LL Bean , City of Portland, Oakhurst, City of Bangor, Town of Falmouth.

Tom Reinauer asked if there have been any school districts involved in the program? Steve explained that the program is working on it.

Tom asked if knowledgeable mechanics are a barrier to alternative fuels. Steve Linnell explained that with federal money, Maine towns can receive technical assistance with site analysis of fueling stations, mechanic training, and other services.

Jon Carter expressed interest in the program and said that he would like to follow up with Steve in getting information for the Town of Kittery.

4. Draft KACTS Unified Work Planning Program

Tom Reinauer presented a draft KACTS Unified Work Planning Program (UPWP) for FY 2008-2009. Tom briefly discussed the task items listed in the UPWP. Tom noted that in this version, it shows a transit planning task item. Funds for transit planning come from the Federal Transit Administration, all other tasks are funded through the Federal Highway

Administration. Transit funds will be used to help with transit initiatives such as the recent work to assist the Town of Eliot and York County Community Action Corporation to enhance senior transit services in Eliot.

John Carter said that he spoke with outgoing Captain Iverson of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard recently. They had a conversation about coordinating a shuttle service with the Shipyard to bring workers into Kittery. He would like KACTS to possibly look at getting involved in this potential transit planning effort.

John Carter said that he would like to see KACTS help the towns boost their GIS datasets. Kittery would like to get more data up and available on their website. Tom noted that there is a GIS Task in the UPWP. Also Task 3.2 includes budget allotment for a possible group bid with the other MPOs to purchase permanent counters.

John asked if there is latitude in the current UPWP to examine possibilities of a NB and SB Dennett Road exit. Josh Mack stated that the Route One Committee, although named Route One, has a geographic scope to include North-South movements on the coast which includes examining I-95 as well. Tom Reinauer added that the first step for Kittery would be to set up a meeting with Conrad Welzel at the Maine Turnpike Authority to go over their Interchange policy and the next steps for Kittery to proceed with the idea.

Jon Carter motioned to accept the Unified Planning Work Program with the minor amendments that it would note inclusion of a possible Portsmouth Naval Shipyard transit planning project through the transit planning task, strong development of municipal transportation GIS data, and assistance in proceeding discussion with the Maine Turnpike Authority in examining a Dennett Road interchange. Terry Oliver seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion unanimously.

5. Draft KACTS Transportation Improvement Program 2008-2011

Tom Reinauer presented a list of projects anticipated for the KACTS Transportation Improvement Program. Tom noted that the list does not currently include the transit operating assistance part of the TIP, as staff are currently working on the formula for transit assistance with York County Community Action Corporation and the Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation. Another change that will be occurring will be a reallocation of money to the Kittery Route One Reconstruction project from a Project Identification Number currently called MPO Project. Also the introduction and narrative portion of the document are currently being updated. Tom explained that there is a federal requirement to have a fifteen day comment period prior to KACTS Committee approval. An approval date could occur sometime in June.

John Carter said that management of the Route One project has been one of the most mismanaged projects he has witnessed. Chris Mann answered that there has been a perfect storm of inflationary costs, deferrals, and other factors that have made it difficult for MaineDOT to finish projects all over the state. Dan Blanchette noted that it will be very

important to pass the Bond issue this June. The current Transportation Improvement Plan project schedule heavily relies on the passage of this bond issue. The Committee agreed by consensus to meet on June 20th at Kittery Town Hall. Staff will be doing the finishing touches on the TIP and will be forwarding the documents to all committee members.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

Minutes written by Josh Mack, SMRPC, June 1, 2007.