



PACTS Executive Committee Agenda

July 7, 2020

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Zoom webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87547417602>

As of March 31, 2020 PACTS and GPCOG are holding all committee meetings via [Zoom conferencing technology](#). We remain committed to full public access and participation in our meetings through remote access during the COVID-19 crisis. Remote meetings will be held in accordance with the requirements of [LD 2167, Public Law Chapter 618](#).

1. Welcome – Matt Sturgis, Chair

2. Public Comment

Residents are welcome to provide up to three minutes of public comment on any issue, including items on the agenda.

3. Acceptance of June 2, 2020 meeting minutes (Attachment A)

4. Approval of Additional PACTS Funding for South Portland’s Broadway Signals Project (Attachments B and C) - 10 minutes

Staff Report: The City of South Portland’s Broadway Signals project has a funding deficit based on the bids the City has received. The City is requesting up to an additional 20% of the available construction funding. This is in accordance with the PACTS Executive Committee’s decision in March to increase PACTS’ maximum contribution of construction cost overages from 10% to 20%. This is also in accordance with the PACTS Policy Committee’s decision in June to allow coverage for all project costs. The available construction funds for this project are \$283,542.15, and the low construction bid is \$320,710. The total available funding for this project is \$378,238 and the estimated project cost is \$424,133. The City is requesting an additional \$50,000, which is less than 20% of the available construction funding. The City has the match funds available for this request. An email from the City of South Portland and a spreadsheet on the PACTS Holding WIN balance are attached.

Proposed action: Approve the reallocation of \$50,000 Federal Highway Administration capital funding from the Holding WIN to the South Portland Broadway Signals project.

5. PACTS Transit Committee CARES Act Recommendations – 20 minutes

Staff Report

The Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act made \$53M available to the PACTS region for public transportation. The initial phase of CARES funding apportioned approximately \$14M to address the immediate needs of transit agencies for February 1 to June 30, 2020. Phase II is focused on addressing the longer-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on transit agencies and improving the resiliency and efficiency of the regional public transportation network.

Staff and the PACTS Transit Committee developed a framework for programming these funds that includes a 3.5-year planning horizon and the allocation of funds in six-month increments to account for changing circumstances. The primary focus for the remaining funds is on preserving the region's existing transit service. Other priorities include pandemic recovery and resiliency, transit system innovation, and direct municipal budget assistance.

The region's transit agencies submitted baseline revenues, estimated lost revenues, and estimated operating expenses through the end of 2023. This process yielded a regional total of approximately \$32M for Priority One, prompting the Transit Committee to agree at its June 30 meeting that further refinement of the template and further exploration of each agency's unique circumstances are necessary to make an informed recommendation on the allocation of the remaining funds. Staff will work with each agency individually, and the Transit Committee will discuss the issue further at its July 9 Committee meeting and July 28 workshop. Depending on the progress that is made, the Transit Committee may be able to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee for consideration at its August 4 meeting. The transit agencies have indicated they are comfortable taking this additional time.

Proposed action: For information only.

6. Consideration of Draft Language Regarding Greater Collaboration and Opportunities for Consolidation Among PACTS Region Transit Agencies – 20 Minutes

Staff Report

In reviewing the draft *Transit Tomorrow* recommendations at its June 25 meeting, the PACTS Policy Committee discussed the need for improved coordination and potential opportunities for consolidation among the region's transit agencies. *Moving Southern Maine Forward* noted that "Better coordination of services and strong focus on collaboration between agencies would improve ridership, revenue and public support." Enhanced **Coordination** of route planning, schedules and operations may improve service delivery and the customer experience.

Integration of routes, schedules, branding, websites and the other customer facing elements of the transit system would have clear and tangible benefits for customers. **Consolidation** of transit operations or portions of operations would create the "integration" benefits described above while also reducing operating costs. The cost savings associated with consolidation has been previously documented by GPCOG's SMART Study (2015) and METRO's South Portland-METRO Unification Proposal (2018). In addition, the PACTS Reforms committed PACTS to use its limited resources as efficiently as possible and keep its focus on the customer. For transit, the goal is to provide a more seamless and cohesive system for users. Progress on coordination has been made, with the most recent example being the adoption of a common fare structure,

fare capping, and automated fare payment between Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit, METRO, and South Portland Bus Service.

Per the discussion at the PACTS Policy Committee, staff has drafted the policy statement below for the Executive Committee's consideration. This language would guide staff in developing a potential study focused on this topic.

To make the best use of limited resources, improve efficiency, and create a cohesive and unified system for users of public transportation, PACTS will identify, explore, and analyze opportunities for coordination, integration and/or consolidation in the region's public transportation network.

Proposed action: Adopt the draft policy statement or provide guidance to staff on necessary revisions.

7. Other Business

8. Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

- July 9, 9:30 a.m. – PACTS Transit Committee
- July 14, 8:30 a.m. – PACTS Technical Committee
- July 21, 9:30 a.m. – PACTS TIP Committee
- July 28, 1:00 p.m. – PACTS Transit Committee Workshop
- August 4, 8:30 a.m. – PACTS Executive Committee
- August 11, 8:30 a.m. – PACTS Technical Committee
- August 13, 9:30 a.m. – PACTS Transit Committee
- August 25, 1:00 p.m. – PACTS Transit Committee Workshop
- August 18, 9:30 a.m. – PACTS TIP Committee