

PACTS Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

Thursday, May 14, 2020

1:00 PM -2:30 PM

Remote Meeting

Committee Members	Affiliation	Attendance
Tad Redway	Arundel	N
Greg Tansley	Biddeford	Y
Maureen O'Meara	Cape Elizabeth	Y
Carla Nixon	Cumberland	N
Kara Wooldrick	Portland Trails	Y
Theo Holtwijk	Falmouth	N
VACANT	Freeport	N/A
Carlos Pena	FHWA	N
Leah Sirmin	FTA	N
Carol Eyerman	Gorham	N
Chris Mann	MaineDOT	Y
Anne Lang	North Yarmouth	N
Michael Foster	Old Orchard Beach	Y
Bruce Hyman	Portland	Y
Don Willard	Raymond	N
Emily Cole-Prescott	Saco	Y
Jamel Torres, Vice Chair	Scarborough	N
Eric Sanderson	SMPDC	N
Justin Barker	South Portland	Y
Zach Mosher	Standish	N
VACANT	Transit Committee	N
Jennie Franceschi	Westbrook	N
Amanda Lessard	Windham	Y
Alex Jaegerman, Chair	Yarmouth	Y
Guests		
Tex Haeuser		
Milan Nevajda	South Portland	
For GPCOG		
Rick Harbison, Ryan Neale, Harold Spetla		

1. Welcome- Alex Jaegerman, Chair

Alex opened the meeting at 1:05 P.M.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Acceptance of 4/2/20 Meeting Minutes

Chris Mann moved to approve the 4/2/2020 minutes and the motion was seconded by Bruce Hyman; all were in favor.

4. Project Updates

Rick Harbison provided background on *Transit Tomorrow* upon request by Alex Jaegerman. The overview highlighted consultant AECOM's findings from the study which identified key corridor transit investments as having a greater effect on ridership than land use changes. However, compact land use paired with investments in rapid transit performed best during scenario modeling. AECOM will be presenting recommendations and strategies at the May 22nd *Transit Tomorrow* Project Advisory Committee meeting. The recommendations will be structured within different categories, including rapid transit, mobility management, and local/feeder services. PACTS also plans to solicit public engagement at the GPCOG Annual Summit on May 28th. PowerPoints will be available on the GPCOG website and members are welcome to reach out to Rick Harbison or Ryan Neale with questions.

Kara Wooldrik noted that none of the scenario modeling had shown a 30% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, which would meet the State's emission goals, so additional solutions should continue to be considered. It was mentioned that the modeling used current rate of ridership, so it is possible that alternative scenarios could result in increased ridership and greenhouse gas emission reductions through reduced single car occupancy. Rick Harbison noted that AECOM is planning to outline the ridership changes that need to happen to see the 30% in greenhouse gas emissions. Staff will be working with AECOM to explore the implications of COVID-19 on the future of transit.

At the April Policy Committee meeting, the Planning Committee's recommendations for the Maine Climate Council Transportation Working Group were modified and approved. Those recommendations were sent in a letter to the co-chairs of the Maine Climate Council on behalf of PACTS. Alex noted that this was a great example of PACTS taking fast action on a timely issue.

PACTS received proposals on April 30th from TY Lin and VHB on the Mill Creek to Cushing's Point Multimodal Priority Corridor Study. PACTS and South Portland are putting together a project selection committee. Staff will provide additional updates at study milestones and Justin Barker will provide updates and a project summary. Milan Nevajda, new South Portland Planning and Development Director, introduced himself.

5. PACTS Transit-Oriented-Development

Rick Harbison presented on the PACTS Maine Mall Transit-Oriented-Development (TOD) plan and the Biddeford-Saco TOD plan. Rick covered the basics of TOD design, the conceptual application of TOD principles to the South Portland Maine Mall, and future application of the plan in South Portland. The Maine Mall TOD was designed with a 15-20 year horizon in mind with a project team that consisted of GPCOG staff, South Portland staff, Maine Mall management, and MaineDOT staff. Many stakeholders also provided input through stakeholder meetings. This project had a \$20,000 budget. The slide's from Rick's presentation and more information on the Maine Mall TOD plan can be found by clicking [here](#).

The Biddeford-Saco TOD plan timeline is set for January 2020 to January 2021 and will focus on the shared mill district between Biddeford and Saco and this project has a \$40,000 budget. Rick noted some distinct differences between the two TOD plans—Saco-Biddeford has more built density, more land use diversity, and stronger pre-existing transit options compared to the Maine Mall. Weaknesses of the Saco-Biddeford site include a potential shortage of parking, long walking distances from the Biddeford side, and the lack of pedestrian navigation/wayfinding. The major difference between the plans is the Maine Mall plan being a large-scale redesign, while Saco-Biddeford will consist of spot improvements and redesign.

GPCOG's plan for public engagement will involve virtual participation at several levels, including steering committee meetings, stakeholder outreach, surveys, youth outreach, a virtual workshop, and a presentation to city councils toward the end of the project. Tex Haeuser shared [this link](#) as an example for virtual public participation.

6. Adjourn.

At 2:33 P.M. Bruce made a motion to adjourn; Maureen seconded; all were in favor.