

PACTS Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

8:30 AM -10:00 PM

Remote Meeting

In Attendance:

Committee Members	Affiliation	Attendance
Tom Milligan	Biddeford	Y
Robert Malley	Cape Elizabeth	Y
Bill Shane	Cumberland	Y
VACANT	Executive Committee	N/A
Jay Reynolds	Falmouth	Y
Adam Bliss, Vice Chair	Freeport	Y
Bob Burns	Gorham	Y
Rebecca Grover	Maine Turnpike Authority	N
Darryl Belz	MaineDOT	Y
LaRay Hamilton	MaineDOT	Y
Clark Baston	North Yarmouth	N
Joe Cooper	Old Orchard Beach	N
Jeremiah Bartlett	Portland	Y
Nathan White	Raymond	N
Patrick Fox, Chair	Saco	Y
Angela Blanchette	Scarborough	N
Abbie Sherwin	SMPDC	N
Justin Gove	South Portland	N
VACANT	Transit Committee	N/A
Katherine Kelley	Westbrook	Y
Mark Arianti	Windham	Y
Erik Street	Yarmouth	Y
Guests		
Ken Capron	MicroRail	
For GPCOG		
Ryan Neale, Elizabeth Roberts, Harold Spetla		

1. Welcome- Patrick Fox, Chair

Patrick opened the meeting by having those in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Public Comments

One member of the public asked the following questions italicized below. That member of the public was informed that GPCOG staff would follow up with those questions and answers were sent via email on June 12th. Those answers can be found below, following each question.

1. *Could the Committee minutes/agenda please include all documents that are made available to the committee members? For example, this month's • Regional Traffic Management System and • High Crash Locations Assessment could have been part of the attachment.*

Answer: The RTMS and HCL assessment updates were in attachment B on our agenda, available on the website.

2. *Could the Committee Minutes/Agenda packet also include any letters, emails and other communications with the public since they are public information under FOAA.*

Answer: PACTS will look into this. A record of these questions and answers will be included in the minutes from yesterday's meeting.

3. *Assuming that ZOOM meetings will be in use for months and years to come, would the committee be willing to simulate a more inclusive display of attendees as would be available at in-person meetings. In a physical meeting it is possible to see the other participants and it is also possible to "private chat" with other attendees perhaps by stepping out of the conference room. ZOOM offers that private chat function if enabled by the host(s).*

Answer: The Zoom webinar feature has limited settings and we have to balance the risk of inappropriate video-sharing but PACTS will look into this.

4. *In what meetings or formats does PACTS evaluate the effectiveness and costs of materials used in the construction projects to which it allocates funds of all types? Where are the reasons for using chosen materials made public and how often are said materials re-evaluated. Maybe it's time to switch to different materials for paving. Maybe preformed roadways. Snap together systems are being used in some Scandinavian communities. I invite you to begin considering MicroRail as a new mode of transportation that doesn't depend on surface maintenance. Have we reached "the end of the road" as our major mode of transportation.?"*

Answer: PACTS has noted your input. Regarding constructions materials, all PACTS projects have to meet specifications set out by MaineDOT. Any evaluation happens at the MaineDOT level.

3. Acceptance of 5/12/20 Minutes

Bob Burns moved to approve the 5/12/2020 minutes; the motion was seconded by Tom Milligan; all were in favor.

4. Project Updates

PACTS Regional Traffic Management System

Staff are in the process of negotiating a contract with the selected consultant.

PACTS High Crash Locations Assessment

Staff made comments on the draft High Crash Locations Assessments and returned the comments to VHB for editing.

Tom Milligan asked about the PACTS Crack Sealing program and whether there would be an opportunity to treat additional roads if there is unused funding. Staff noted that MaineDOT is not anticipating any unused funds and will be hopeful to treat all of the selected segments. It was also noted that contracts of this nature contain a contingency to account for unforeseen overages.

5. 2022 PACTS Collector Paving Project Selection

Patrick noted the list of projects proposed by staff makes up 3.5 miles of road network, while maintenance level treatment for the network would be between 15-19 miles of paving. Later in the meeting, several members echoed Patrick's sentiments that the paving schedule is behind the curve.

Tom Milligan asked about how past projects, which had not been awarded bids, would be treated in this year's funding. The Biddeford Precourt Street paving project was paired with the Saco Maple Street project, which was not awarded due to Saco being unable to fund the overage on their part of the bid. The Biddeford Precourt Street paving project is still a viable paving candidate for 2021, but would not be considered as part of the 2022 selection process.

Adam Bliss expressed concerns about the data from VHB that influenced the staff recommended paving list and reservations about voting on a list that the committee had not had appropriate time to digest. The data concerns are based on inconsistencies in segment rankings between the 2021 and 2022 project selections—some road segments experienced extreme swings in rankings, as much as 80 places, largely influenced by significant deltas between the 2018 and 2020 assessments by VHB. Adam emphasized that these numbers need to be scrutinized.

Harold stated that the Technical Committee would need to approve a list of segments in July in order to deliver the list to the PACTS governing body for August. Since this meeting, MaineDOT has notified staff that they have a larger window and will be able to fully process the VHB data and make an informed decision when selecting paving segments.

Harold also provided additional detail on the pavement rating methodology used by VHB and how that may have affected the 2020 Pavement Condition Index (PCI) ratings and subsequent Overall Rankings. The subjectivity of the rating system used by VHB is the most significant factor. Several committee members felt the process was bogged down by over-analysis.

Multiple committee members noted they had used the 2021 list of segments and PCI values to roughly determine where they might fall on this year's selection process. Falling down the list for selection will have a prolonged effect on the roads in their municipalities.

Adam Bliss moved to table the discussion on the staff recommendation for the 2022 PACTS Collector Paving program until a complete and accepted list is received from VHB. Jay Reynolds seconded the motion. Tom Milligan, Jay Reynolds, Adam Bliss, and Mark Arienti voted for the motion to table the discussion, Bob Malley, Bill Shane, Bob Burns, Darryl Belz, Jeremiah Bartlett, Patrick Fox, Katherine Kelley, and Erik Street voted against the motion, and LaRay Hamilton abstained.

Bill Shane moved to accept the staff recommendation for the 2022 PACTS Collector Paving program as presented and work with VHB to develop a more comprehensive list of data for the committee to accept in the future. Bob Malley seconded the motion. The committee discussed how the road segments were ranked—Overall Ranking by Condition, using the 2022 Predicted PCI which is determined using the 2020 PCI data and VHB's deterioration algorithm. The committee then discussed concerns about the shortfall of paving funding within the collector network compared to what is needed for maintenance. After some discussion, Bill Shane withdrew his motion.

MaineDOT also noted that the estimates for these segments appear to be low, compared to recent bid prices. GPCOG staff will review estimates with MaineDOT after a list is selected.

Patrick Fox suggested creating a 4- or 5-year plan that would involve establishing a list to use for 4 or 5 years between assessments. This proposition was offered for consideration at a future meeting.

Jay Reynolds moved to reject the staff recommended 2022 PACTS Collector Paving list to allow more time to refine the list with VHB, follow up with municipalities to gauge their ability to fund 2022 projects, and request that a representative from VHB attend the July Technical Committee meeting. Bill Shane seconded the motion. Katherine Kelley opposed the motion; all other members voted in favor.

The committee thanked Patrick Fox for his two years of service as Technical Committee Chair.

6. Adjourn.

Adam Bliss moved to adjourn; Bob Malley seconded; all were in favor.