

PACTS Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 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	N
VACANT	Executive Committee	
Jay Reynolds	Falmouth	Y
Adam Bliss, Chair	Freeport	Y
Bob Burns	Gorham	Y
Rebecca Grover	Maine Turnpike Authority	N
Darryl Belz	MaineDOT	Y
LaRay Hamilton	MaineDOT	N
Clark Baston	North Yarmouth	N
Joe Cooper	Old Orchard Beach	N
Jeremiah Bartlett	Portland	Y
Nathan White	Raymond	N
Patrick Fox	Saco	Y
Angela Blanchette	Scarborough	Y
Abbie Sherwin	SMPDC	N
Justin Gove	South Portland	Y
VACANT	Transit Committee	
Katherine Kelley, Vice Chair	Westbrook	Y
Mark Arianti	Windham	Y
Erik Street	Yarmouth	Y
Guests		
Gordon Daring	VHB	
Jeff Demers	Biddeford	
For GPCOG		
Ryan Neale, Elizabeth Roberts, Harold Spetla, Andrew Clark		

1. Welcome- Adam Bliss, Chair

Adam opened the meeting shortly after 8:30 AM.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Acceptance of 6/9/20 Minutes

Bob Malley moved to approve the 6/9/2020 minutes; the motion was seconded by Tom Milligan; all were in favor.

4. Project Updates

The new agenda format includes written projects updates. Staff will address any items of interest to Committee members.

Regional Traffic Management System

Bob Burns asked if Scarborough and Gorham were included in the contract with Sebago Technics. Elizabeth Roberts informed the Committee that the consultant will be looking at all RTMS signals in RTMS communities, except for Portland opting out of the signal communication and detection assessment.

Adam Bliss asked if Sebago Technics had started the RTMS work. Elizabeth noted that the consultant is not yet under contract, but all paperwork is in place and staff anticipate a start shortly. Adam also asked if there was an agreement in place between RTMS communities. Elizabeth noted that there is a local share—20% of the total budget (~\$168,000 and ~\$33,600), divided between the participating communities.

Katherine Kelley asked why “respond to municipalities’ requests” was bolded. Elizabeth said this was to bring attention to that item. In the past, this service has been considered valuable to participating municipalities and could be bolstered in the budget later in the contract. Katherine followed up by asking if staff could send an outline of specific services provided by the consultant. Elizabeth plans to have the consultants attend a future Technical Committee meeting to discuss the services offered to municipalities.

PACTS High Crash Locations

Bob Burns asked why the High Crash Locations list was not included in the meeting packet. The list has been included in the past and staff will include it in the August meeting packet. Elizabeth informed the Committee that the consultant had recently provided revised recommendations based on feedback from GPCOG staff and the detailed assessments and recommendations will be provided to the Technical Committee when they have been reviewed by staff.

5. 2022 PACTS Collector Paving Project Selection

At its June meeting, the Technical Committee expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of the data used to select Collector Paving segments—specifically, inconsistencies from year to year with PCI values. GPCOG staff, Adam Bliss, Patrick Fox, and Katherine Kelley met with VHB for a more in-depth understanding of how VHB developed their data.

VHB received the feedback from PACTS and the Technical Committee and returned to the field to reassess the concerned segments. The consultant produced a revised spreadsheet. GPCOG staff have reviewed the revised spreadsheet and developed a list for consideration by the Technical Committee. Roads are color coded based on their fit as potential candidates—green cell roads are good candidates for which communities confirmed their willingness to provide the municipal match, blue cell roads are good candidates without confirmed match, yellow roads were short segments that would need to be combined with another longer segment, orange cell roads were identified as having dropped by 20 points or more since the last assessment or identified by the consultant as poor mill and fill candidates.

Katherine Kelley expressed that paving history should be considered when selecting projects—a segment identified as unsuitable for mill and fill that hasn't been treated in 20+ years should carry more weight than a recently treated project, if PCIs are nearly equal. The Committee agreed to consider all road segments on the list equally, including the orange-cell segments described above.

Elizabeth also noted that the Committee has not considered the subsurface of the roads in prior selection processes, though this could be a significant factor in road degradation. At this time, the selection process is too far along, but a subsurface analysis would be very useful for future selection processes. Bob Burns expressed the desire to move along with projects foregoing any subsurface analysis. Tom Milligan and Bob Malley expressed similar concerns regarding the subsurface, highlighting that many roads are due to fall into the "rehabilitation" category without a funding source to meet that level of reconstruction. Bob Malley suggested we aim to get another 10+ years out of roads before they fall out of the funding range.

Jay Reynolds noted that there are many factors worth considering. Given that MaineDOT has granted PACTS additional time for selections, he recommended the Committee revisit the collector roads selection at a future meeting. Adam Bliss and Katherine Kelley also expressed support to revisit the list at a later meeting. Angela Blanchette moved to table the list to allow communities and PACTS staff more time to refine the list and confirm available funding if selected. Bob Burns seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

6. Other Business

Jay Reynolds brought up the potential for federal funds to support shovel-ready projects. Elizabeth Roberts provided some details about the INVEST Act, including a one-year grant for rural roads that are not on the federal system—projects adjacent to the federal system may be eligible. Elizabeth encouraged the Committee to consider municipal projects that are in the design process that can be brought to preliminary design review by May 2021 if stimulus funding becomes available.

In response to a question from Tom Milligan, Elizabeth said that projects would be accepted after the end of July deadline, but staff would like to have project submissions as soon as possible. Elizabeth said she is looking for a brief definition of scope, project limits, and where the project is in the process timeline.

Adam Bliss underscored the call by Jay Reynold and Bill Shane to coordinate within subregions to simplify the collector roads selection process in the future, with the goal of shortening the life cycle under the current funding constraints.

Jay Reynolds and the other Technical Committee members expressed their gratitude to Bob Malley for his many years of service to Cape Elizabeth and PACTS and wished him well in his retirement.

7. Adjourn.

Tom Milligan made a motion to adjourn; Jay Reynolds seconded; all were in favor.