

**Simplification Study
Policy Working Group – Standards & Costs Subcommittee**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2010
MaineDOT Room 216**

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members

David Bernhardt, MaineDOT (Co-chair)
Richard Crawford, MaineDOT
Rhonda Fletcher, MaineDOT
Jim Hanley, Pike Industries
Denny Keschl, Belgrade Town Manager
Dale Mitchell, HNTB
Roger Raymond, Bucksport Town Manager
Tony Smith, Mount Desert Public Works Director (Co-chair)
Erik Street, Yarmouth Public Works Director
Bob Watson, MaineDOT
Galen Larrabee, Knox Selectman

Subcommittee Staff

Peter Coughlan, MaineDOT
Kate Dufour, MMA

Other Guests

Glen Ridley, Litchfield Selectman

Absent:

Greg Dore, Skowhegan Road Commissioner

Meeting Minutes:

Items 1 and 2: Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair David Bernhardt convened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and had members introduce themselves. During its two one-half hour meeting, the Subcommittee had discussions and took actions on the following issues:

Item 3: Administrative Matters

- a. Designation of Co-chair. Denny Keschl moved and Jim Hanley seconded the appointment of Tony Smith as co-chair of the Subcommittee.
- b. Minutes. MMA's Kate Dufour was assigned the task of compiling notes.
- c. Communication protocols. It was decided that "between meeting communications" would take place through e-mail. To ensure that all members receive the same information, it was further decided that all questions, comments, suggestions and information would be sent to all members of the Subcommittee and MaineDOT and MMA staff.

Item 4: Charter Review

David Bernhardt led the group through a review of the nine tasks assigned by the Policy Working Group to the Standards & Cost Subcommittee. A brief discussion ensued regarding adding a Subcommittee task to create a process for more easily coordinating maintenance

activities among communities. It was determined that if deemed necessary, the Policy Working Group could create a separate subcommittee to address that issue.

Item 5: Existing State Highway Classification System

Peter Coughlan led the Subcommittee through a presentation outlining the layers and complexities found within the existing federal and state highway classification systems.

Items 6 and 7 Standards and Costs Discussions

The purpose of this discussion was two-fold: 1) to determine whether the claim that “municipalities can do road improvement and maintenance projects more efficiently than the state” was true; and 2) if true, how do municipalities achieve the efficiencies.

The municipal representatives on the Subcommittee were invited to provide examples of those efficiencies. The municipal project efficiencies raised, included: 1) the municipal community’s willingness to take on more project risks; 2) savings associated with municipal management of projects; 3) ease of negotiating right-of-way needs without purchasing property; 4) less stringent testing standards; 5) absence of personality conflicts with certain state project managers and inspectors; and 6) less documentation and paperwork.

For the next meeting, Subcommittee members were asked to bring documentation of local project savings and efficiencies, both for capital improvements and summer/winter maintenance activities. In order to facilitate that process, MaineDOT staff will be providing a set of standards for Subcommittee members to provide “apples-to-apples” local level cost data.

Item 8: Future Meetings

The Subcommittee has scheduled meetings for the following dates:

- Friday, January 22, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MaineDOT Augusta Office.
- Friday, February 5, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MaineDOT Augusta Office.

Item 9: Other Matters

None

Item 10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.