

**Simplification Study
Policy Working Group – Urban Issues Subcommittee**

**Thursday, January 7, 2010
MaineDOT Room 216**

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members

Dale Doughty, MaineDOT (Co-chair)
Jerry Dostie, Augusta
John Duncan, PACTS
Rob Kenerson, BACTS
John Melrose, Maine Tomorrow
Mike Roy, Waterville
Chip Swan, Hampden

Absent:

Michelle Beal, Ellsworth
Mike Bobinsky, Portland

Subcommittee Staff

Peter Coughlan, MaineDOT
Kate Dufour, MMA

Other Guests

David Bernhardt, MaineDOT
John Johnson, Jay
Fred Michaud, MaineDOT
John Welch, Wilton
Bill Nichols, Livermore Falls

Meeting Notes:

Items 1, 2 and 3: Welcome, Introductions & Charter Review

Co-chair Dale Doughty convened the meeting at 1:06 p.m., had members introduce themselves and quickly reviewed the Subcommittee's charter. During its two hour meeting, the Subcommittee had discussions and took actions on the following issues:

Item 4: Administrative Matters

- a. Designation of Co-chair. Rob Kenerson moved and Mike Roy seconded the appointment of John Duncan as co-chair of the Subcommittee.
- b. Minutes. MMA's Kate Dufour was assigned the task of compiling notes.
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 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 Classification & Financing Discussion

Subcommittee members were asked to share their experiences and concerns regarding the existing urban classification system. The members were in general agreement that any changes

to the existing system must achieve the following goals: 1) reduce complexity in the existing classification system; 2) clarify which level of government is responsible for each classification of road; 3) provide adequate funding for the assigned maintenance responsibilities; 4) ensure that funds are equitably distributed; and 5) take into account the unique pressures felt by larger service center communities. Some subcommittee members believe that these changes could enable municipalities to make better decisions regarding the investment of local road improvement funds.

Item 7: Future Meetings

The Subcommittee has scheduled meetings for the following dates:

- Friday, January 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at MaineDOT Augusta Office.
- Friday, February 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at MaineDOT Augusta Office.

Item 8: Other Matters

Data Requests/Assignments:

- Legislative history/intent behind the creation of urban compact statutes.
- State expenditure data for winter and summer road maintenance.
- Local expenditure data for winter and summer road maintenance. Mike Roy, Jerry Dostie, John Melrose and Kate Dufour will work together to design a survey for collecting local level fiscal data from urban communities. The intent is to devise a collection mechanism that will enable the local data to be used to make “apples-to-apples” comparisons with state cost data.
- Creation of additional road classification maps (similar to Old Orchard Beach, Skowhegan and Topsham maps used in Pete Coughlan’s presentation).
- Compare municipal and urban compact boundaries to determine if there are benefits associated with having the entire community included within the urban compact area.

Item 10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.