

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

**Wednesday, January 22, 2010
MaineDOT Room 317 A & B**

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members

David Bernhardt, MaineDOT (Co-chair)
Richard Crawford, MaineDOT
Greg Dore, Skowhegan Road Commissioner
Rhonda Fletcher, MaineDOT
Jim Hanley, Pike Industries
Denny Keschl, Belgrade Town Manager
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
Randy Geaumont, MaineDOT

Other Guests

Glen Ridley, Litchfield Selectman

Absent:

Dale Mitchell, HNTB and ACECMaine

Meeting Notes:

Item 1: Welcome , Introductions & Approval of January 7th Meeting Notes

Co-chair David Bernhardt convened the meeting at 12:40 p.m. and had members introduce themselves. The January 6th meeting notes were approved with one minor amendment to change the February 5th meeting location from the Department of Transportation to the Maine Municipal Association.

During its three hour meeting, the Subcommittee had discussions and took actions on the following issues:

Item 2: Working Session

- A. *MaineDOT Standards* – The Subcommittee reviewed the road design standards used by the Department. After a detailed discussion, the Subcommittee members agreed that the existing standards were generally appropriate. One change the members agreed to explore was a further breakdown of the under 1,000 AADT minor collector road standard category to include a 400 AADT category. The Subcommittee also agreed that the state should provide more information to municipalities about the existing design standard exception process and committee.

- B. *MaineDOT Policies* – The Subcommittee reviewed two MaineDOT policies to determine if any changes were necessary. In its discussion of the Department’s guardrail policy, the Subcommittee recommended amending the policy to ensure that guardrails are replaced only when necessary (i.e., outlived its lifespan, etc.), rather than to upgrade to the latest technology. With respect to the Department’s shoulder paving policy, the Subcommittee recommended encouraging the state to adhere to the flexibly provided in its existing policy.
- C. *MaineDOT Costs* – The Subcommittee discussed some of the reasons why the state and the municipal costs on road projects differ. As a result of the discussion it was concluded most of the cost differentials are linked to the amount of risks, with respect to product assurance, municipalities are willing to accept. Municipalities, generally, do not require as much product testing as does the state. While municipalities are willing to take greater risks, they acknowledged that their road projects generally do not have the same amount and type of traffic as do the state’s larger roads. Municipalities also acknowledged that the state’s high product standards have benefited local projects in that materials suppliers work to provide the highest quality product, regardless of whether the materials are used on local or state roads. During the discussion the municipal members on the Subcommittee agreed to review the state’s design standards and develop local level cost for similar projects on local roads. It was also decided that all state and local data presented to the Subcommittee would be on a per lane mile basis.

Item 3: Discussion on Standards for any change in responsibility

No discussion took place. This issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

Item 4: Action Items

None

Item 5: Future Meetings

The Subcommittee has scheduled meetings for the following dates:

- Friday, February 5, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at MMA.
- Tuesday, February 23, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. location to be determined.

Item 6: Other Matters

None

Item 7: Adjournment

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