**Transportation Focus Group**

Somerset County Jail

Maine State Prison

Co-Chairs William F. Clark & James O-Ferrell

Members: James Foss - Aroostook Co. Jail

Sgt. Steve Brenton – Cumberland Co. Jail

Corey Swope – Asst. Jail Admin. Somerset Co. Jail

Sheriff Glen Ross – Penobscot County Sheriff’s Office

Capt. Richard Wurpel – Kennebec Co. Jail

Jeffery Merrill – Maine Correctional Center

Gerry Merrill – Maine Correctional Center

**Role and Responsibilities**

The purpose of the Transportation Focus group was to explore methods to coordinate movement of jail and prison inmates in such a way as to reduce duplication of services, improve efficiencies and minimize costs.

**2009 Activities and Accomplishments**

On August 23, 2008, the newly formed Transportation Focus Group met for the first time at the Penobscot County Jail. In subsequent meetings, the committee developed a “Transportation HUB Plan” using the Penobscot County Jail as a focus point for the northern jails to send and pick up their inmates (Northern HUB). The plan provides “long distance” transportation of inmates by the Penobscot County Jail vans reducing the need for each of their “satellite” jails to travel any farther than Bangor.

In early 2009, the committee moved into central Maine and discovered that the county jails south of the Northern HUB had such different dynamics from Bangor that a modified plan was developed which had each satellite jail “taking turns” making the “loop” throughout the central region and delivering all inmates to the Kennebec County Jail where any additional movement, if necessary, was coordinated with the Northern HUB transport vans. The Central HUB was considered “operational” in late November and initial meetings in southern Maine have set the stage for developing a transportation system in that area.

**Priorities and Goals for 2010**

Creating a regional transportation plan for the southern most counties of Maine will certainly prove more difficult than the other two HUBs combined.

Their size and close proximity to the State’s prison and correctional facilities reduce the absolute need for them to coordinate in transportation services due to the expectation that minimal cost savings will be realized.

Regardless, these southern jails have committed themselves to meeting and exploring ways to develop a working relationship with their neighboring transportation systems. The Transportation Focus Group feels that, at a minimum, having these jails intimately aware of the other two regions’ transportation systems will yield greater efficiencies due to their understanding of how they work and what is needed by each facility to make a unified system work.

It is the sincere hope of the Transportation Focus Group that once a plan has been created and implemented in southern Maine, we can declare that Maine has a statewide inmate transportation

system in place.

Respectfully submitted,

**William F. Clark James O’Ferrell**

Sheriff, Hancock County Deputy Warden, Maine State Prison

Bucks Harbor Correctional Center

York County Jail

