

**MaineDOT Strategic Transit Plan 2025
Steering Committee Meeting
September 25, 2014**

MaineDOT Strategic Plan Steering Committee Meeting #6

Meeting Summary

Date: September 25, 2014

Time: 9:00 AM –12:00 PM

Place: MaineDOT Conference Room, Augusta, Maine

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members:

Rep. Sharon Treat, Steve Linnel, Connie Garber, Jess Maurer, Dana Knapp, Jim Phipps, Romaine Turyn, Paul Murphy, Vicki Rusbult, Catherine Singleton

MaineDOT Staff:

Sue Moreau *Manager, Multimodal Planning Division, Bureau of Planning*
Barbi-Jo Lord, Lori Brann, Dwanye Scott

Consultants:

Peter Schauer-Principal in Charge, Rich Rothe, Tom Meyers.

Welcome

Sue Moreau: All members introduced themselves. Sue welcomed everyone and described MaineDOT’s recent organizational changes. She explained that we are getting to the end of the process. November 20 will be the next meeting, at which time we will review a first draft of the final plan. The plan is to be fact-based, and to that end, the consultant team has undertaken a lot of research throughout the course of the project and during the course of the summer.

Meeting turned over to lead consultant, **Peter Schauer** who provided project schedule:

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| November 20 | 9:00 AM – Noon DOT 216 | Steering Committee Meeting #7 | Draft Final Report Discussion |
| November 28 | All Comments to Consultants on Draft Final Report | | |
| January 15, 2015 | 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM DOT 216 | Public Hearing on Final Plan | |
| January 15 | 12:30 PM – 3:30 DOT 216 | Steering Committee Meeting #8 | End of project January 31, 2015 |

As part of the PowerPoint presentation Peter reviewed the agenda as well as a summary of key activities and accomplishments. He emphasized that there has been public involvement on three different levels – several surveys, the transit summit summits, and steering committee meetings. He reviewed the “wiring diagram” and stated that at this point, we’re at the “where we want to go” portion of the diagram.

Transit Summits (see PowerPoint)

Rich Rothe then provided an overview of the regional transit summits. He explained that the a list of hypothetical and planned projects and priorities was initially developed with each of the providers. The list of priorities and projects for each region was included in the invitations that were mailed to agencies and individuals in that particular region. At each of the transit summits, everyone was given an opportunity to add to the list of priorities and projects, and then rate the combined list. The process used was a modified nominal group technique (NGT). MaineDOT plans to hold similar meetings once per year.

Cost Overview (see PowerPoint)

Rich Rothe provided a summary of the cost overview that was emailed to Steering Committee members prior to the meeting. Discussion included a suggestion that the rationale for the 1.5% inflation factor be included in the document. There was a common consensus that the ARTS model for general public demand response service is no longer realistic, and that cost projections should be based on more recent data, rather than FY 2012 data. It was agreed that the consultants would seek fiscal year 2013 and 2014 data from the current transit providers and use it for the plan estimations.

Peer State Review (see PowerPoint)

Tom Myers provided an over view of how Maine compares to seven similar states in terms of providing cost-effective service. The comparisons for 5311 funding were taken from the Rural Transit Fact Book which includes information from the NTD data base. Maine does not compare favorably with the seven peer states. Discussion centered on whether there were differences in the other states in terms of how services are delivered, and the fact that one or more community action agencies in Maine do not charge a fare. Several Committee members suggested that there be more explanation of the differences, perhaps by footnotes to the table.

Adjourn

Next Steering Committee Meeting November 20, 2014