Governor’s Economic Recovery Sub-committee
Infrastructure (Transportation, Construction, Broadband, and Banking)
AGENDA
Wednesday, 7/8/20

• Introductions:
  - Susan Corbett – Director of the National Digital Equity Center
  - Carol Woodcock – State Office Representative for US Senator Susan Collins
  - Senator Lisa Keim – District 18, Northern Oxford County
  - Jessica Masse – Partner at Designlab
  - Lee Umphrey – President of the Eastern Maine Development Corporation
  - Lincoln Jeffers – Economic and Community Development Director at the City of Lewiston
  - Phoenix McLaughlin – Staff from Department of Economic and Community Development
  - Taylor Cray – Intern from Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
  - Brian Ambrette – Staff from Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
  - Kevin Raye – Former Maine Senate President, Raye’s Mustard

• Recommendation ranking discussion:
  - These reports (July 15th) are for those things that are more immediately necessary (compared to the Dec. recommendations) and require more actual funding (CARES Act monies).
  - Recommendations can be considered after the July 15th deadline; between now and December recommendations can still be made. We are currently working to deal with the things that are more urgent.
  - It is important to prioritize and have three major recommendations, but it is also important to send forward all ideas “for the record” so that we can be sure to accurately represent the people of Maine.

o ERC Recommendation (Banking)(Bankruptcy)
   Edits/Comments/Additions: NONE

o ERC Recommendation (LIHTC)
   Edits/Comments/Additions:
     - Edit to #4; remove language “institutional investors and others” and “with the means” (from statement “lending institutions with the means”)

o ERC Recommendation (Broadband)
   Edits/Comments/Additions:
     - Language pulled from Quick Start recommendation on broadband with addition of language drafted after a call with ConnectME.
     - It is very possible that this money will not come from CARES Act funding, but it is important to include this so that it is within the discussion of funding. This could potentially become a bond issue in the future.
     - Multiple other states are recommending CARES Act funding be used for broadband buildout.
     - Add the word “affordable” to language in #6; sentence will now read “funding current capital gaps in infrastructure projects initiated by local communities accelerates affordable broadband access...”
**o ERC Recommendation (NECEC)**

*Edits/Comments/Additions:
- Which other subcommittees may support this recommendation? Currently unknown; staffers will confer with other subcommittee staffers.
- Add title to #6; “NECEC added benefits”

**o ERC Recommendation (Permits, Inspections)**

*Edits/Comments/Additions:
- Additions to #2; potentially supported by Innovation and MNR subcommittees
- Discussion of effect of environmental regulations; “deferment of environmental deadlines/regulations and new construction regulations that have minimal environmental impact”; how will this aspect of #4 be implemented?
- #10: Existing model; the State of New York set up an office for renewable energy and permitting; legislation exists currently but the office is not yet operational; “accelerated renewable energy growth and community benefit act”.

**o ERC Recommendation (Renewable Energy)**

*Edits/Comments/Additions:
- Amendments to some of the language by individuals who work in the renewable energy industry will be included in final draft.

**o ERC Recommendation (Transportation Infrastructure)**

*Edits/Comments/Additions:
- Overview: Next week’s (July 14th) bond issue covers transportation projects that are already planned for this year; another bond vote in November would allow new projects to begin without concern for a “halt” in funding from Federal Government.
- Depending on when the Legislature returns, there should be enough time to get a bond issue on the ballot for November. There hasn’t yet been discussion of when the Legislature would need to return for the bond issue to get on the ballot.
- Additions to #6; “address significant deficiencies in transportation infrastructure”.

**• Overview of subcommittee survey results:**

*All will be put forward, but top three have been identified.*

#1; Broadband

#2; Support for transportation infrastructure

#3; Expedite/streamline business permitting

#4 (tie); NECEC Corridor and Expedite renewable energy projects

#5; LIHTC

#6; Banking/Bankruptcy