

**PACTS Executive Board**

February 28, 2023

9:00–10:30 am

Meeting Minutes

Affiliation	Member	
Policy Board Chair	Hope Cahan	✓
Policy Board Vice Chair	Patrick Fox	
Central Subregion Rep.	Keith Gray	✓
Central Subregion Rep.	Kate Lewis	✓
North Subregion Rep.	Scott LaFlamme	✓
South Subregion Rep.	Jim Bennett	✓
West Subregion Rep.	Eric Dudley	✓

Affiliation	Member	
MaineDOT	Dale Doughty	
Maine Turnpike Auth.	Erin Courtney	✓
Active Transp. Specialist	Kara Wooldrik	✓
RTAC Liaison	Tom Milligan	✓
Transit Rep.	Chad Heid	
Transit Rep.	Patricia Quinn	✓
Transit Rep.	Tom Reinauer	

**1. Welcome**

Hope Cahan opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of August 23, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

Erin Courtney moved to approve the August 23, 2022 meeting minutes as written; Tom Milligan seconded. All were in favor (7–0).

**4. Staff Report**

Beginning with the Fall 2023 Call for Projects, municipal project sponsors must complete preliminary Horizontal Vertical Alignment Complete (HVAC).

**5. Connect 2045 Transportation Conformity Determination Report**

At its December 2022 meeting, the Policy Board adopted Connect 2045 as the region’s long-range transportation plan. In accordance with the federal Clean Air Act of 1977, staff have since determined and documented in an air quality transportation conformity report that the projects in Connect 2045 will not negatively impact air quality in the region. Once approved, the conformity report will be added to Connect 2045 as an appendix and the full plan will be submitted to federal partners for review.

Scott LaFlamme moved to approve the Transportation Conformity Determination Report; Keith Gray seconded. All were in favor (9-0).

## **6. Roadway and Transit Performance Targets**

Federal regulation requires MPOs to annually set regional roadway safety targets for five metrics: number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of fatalities, rate of serious injuries, and number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries. The targets as recommended by staff reflect Policy Board guidance and the region's commitment to Vision Zero.

Federal regulation also requires MPOs to annually set regional transit safety performance targets for seven metrics: number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, rate of fatalities, rate of serious injuries, total safety events, rate of safety events, and system reliability. The targets as recommended by staff reflect guidance from the Transit Task Force.

Chris Chop noted there are no formal penalties for an MPO not meeting its targets. Several members expressed their support for the ongoing work to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan.

Jim Bennett wondered how enforcement fits into the region's safety strategy, perhaps as a lower-cost alternative to infrastructure changes. Chris Chop and Andrew Clark noted that an MPO's ability to direct federal funding towards enforcement is limited, but that the Vision Zero team and advisory panel have agreed that no approach is off the table; enforcement will be an important conversation to have with municipal partners.

Kara Wooldrik asked if the data reflects demographic factors that could inform where to target funding. Staff will investigate. Chris added that the Vision Zero Advisory Panel recommended a robust public engagement strategy, especially in disadvantaged communities, to better understand any safety barriers.

Greg Jordan recommended aligning the roadway and transit metrics to underscore the relative safety benefits of transit.

Several members expressed a discomfort in adopting any non-zero targets. Jim Bennett moved to adopt the safety performance targets as presented, except to establish a stated *goal* of zero; Tom Milligan seconded. All were in favor (10-0).

## **7. Amendment of the 2022–2025 TIP to Include 2023–2026 Projects**

MaineDOT requests a TIP amendment to include the FHWA and FTA project lists to be carried over to the 2023–2026 TIP. This will allow all 23 projects to be authorized at their current level of funding with updated information prior to approval of the 2023–2026 TIP and STIP, and will reduce the need for

MaineDOT to seek TIP amendments on a project-by-project basis. The proposed TIP amendment was posted for public comment on February 16. No comments were received.

Jim Bennett moved to approve the TIP amendment as presented; Scott LaFlamme seconded. All were in favor (10-0).

**8. TIP Amendment: MaineDOT Bridge Painting**

MaineDOT requests a TIP Amendment to add \$1.9 million for three new bridge painting projects. Painting of the bridges will increase their lifespans. Jim Bennett moved to approve the TIP amendment as presented; Tom Milligan seconded. All were in favor (10-0).

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Adjourn**

With no objection, the meeting was adjourned.