

# PACTS Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

## AGENDA

Thursday, July 23, 2020

9:00 AM -10:30 AM

Remote Meeting

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Tad Redway	Arundel	N
Greg Tansley	Biddeford	Y
Maureen O'Meara	Cape Elizabeth	Y
Carla Nixon	Cumberland	N
Kara Wooldrick	Portland Trails	Y
Theo Holtwijk	Falmouth	Y
VACANT	Freeport	N/A
Carlos Pena	FHWA	N
Leah Sirmin	FTA	N
Carol Eyerman	Gorham	Y
Chris Mann	MaineDOT	Y
Anne Lang	North Yarmouth	N
Michael Foster	Old Orchard Beach	N
Bruce Hyman	Portland	N
Don Willard	Raymond	N
Emily Cole-Prescott	Saco	N
Jamel Torres, Vice Chair	Scarborough	Y
Eric Sanderson	SMPDC	N
Justin Barker	South Portland	N
Zach Mosher	Standish	N
VACANT	Transit Committee	N
Jennie Franceschi	Westbrook	Y
Amanda Lessard	Windham	N
Alex Jaegerman, Chair	Yarmouth	Y
<b>Guests</b>		
Tom Poirier	Gorham	
Jim Tasse	Bicycle Coalition of Maine	
Dan Ostrye	Yarmouth Trails	
Sue Ellen Bordwell	Casco Bay Trail Alliance	
<b>For GPCOG</b>		
Phaeng Southisombath, Harold Spetla		

### 1. Welcome- Alex Jaegerman, Chair

Alex opened the meeting at approximately 9:00 A.M.

## **2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **3. Acceptance of 5/14/20 Meeting Minutes**

Maureen O'Meara moved to approve the 5/14/2020 minutes and the motion was seconded by Chris Mann; Alex Jaegerman, Greg Tansley, Chris Mann, Maureen O'Meara, Kara Wooldrik, voted to approve the minutes. Carol Eyerman and Theo Holtwijk abstained from voting as they did not attend the May meeting.

## **4. Project Updates**

Harold encouraged Planning Committee members to attend the next Transit Tomorrow Project Advisory Committee meeting in September and offered to pass along questions to Rick Harbison, the Transit Tomorrow project manager. Maureen O'Meara asked how the Transit Tomorrow plan would balance expanding local connections and improving the existing infrastructure. Kara Wooldrick, a Transit Tomorrow PAC member, responded to Maureen's question by noting that the group had discussed balancing needs and addressed the regional development patterns that have necessitated some new network to serve new and different populations. Maureen expressed that each request for new service should be scrutinized to ensure appropriate spending and emphasizing the uses that make the most sense for the region.

Alex also encouraged Planning members to attend the September Transit Tomorrow PAC meeting and asked Harold to share information on how to sign up for notifications for future committee meetings, as well as a draft of the Transit Tomorrow document evaluating COVID-19's impact on transit in the future.

## **5. PACTS Complete Streets Policy Discussion**

Alex Jaegerman introduced the discussion by providing a summary of an on-going project in Yarmouth involving the Exit 15 bridge, crossing I-295, which the Town of Yarmouth would like to have designed with a 10-foot multi-use pathway across the span of the bridge. Dan Ostrye provided additional information on how this section was utilized by bicyclists and pedestrians and emphasized the regional significance for an accessible and safe path at this location. Dan also noted that the municipality felt a limited technical capacity to interpret and discuss some of the plans designed by MaineDOT. Dan expressed a desire for constructive collaboration between the state, region, and municipality.

Dan Ostrye and Jim Tasse presented several proposed designs from previously drawn plans and walked the Committee through the design details. Sue Ellen Bordwell noted that the current MaineDOT design is not consistent with the Main Street Route 1 bridge in Yarmouth.

Carol Eyerman asked if there were any existing master plans for this location in Yarmouth. Jim Tasse noted that the *PACTS North of Portland Route 1 Corridor Plan* did identify this location, though not with the details described by Dan and Jim earlier in the meeting. Carol followed up by asking if MaineDOT considers PACTS master plans when making decisions. Chris Mann responded that MaineDOT does take PACTS master plans into consideration and Alex Jaegerman added that MaineDOT does convene a bridge advisory group with the municipality.

Maureen O'Meara asked for clarification on what was being requested from PACTS—support for Yarmouth's request for a more comprehensive look at bridge design to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. She also noted that Route 1 was the third most significant roadway in our region and that Yarmouth has a substantial pre-existing bicycle and pedestrian network. Due to the regional significance and existing infrastructure, Maureen expressed her support toward having PACTS request that MaineDOT assess the need for a more robust complete street design.

Theo Holtwijk asked if there was an alternatives analysis that would allow the Committee to compare different design options and costs. Jim Tasse confirmed that there were three alternatives in the MaineDOT preliminary design report, which Jim offered to provide for Alex following the meeting. Alex distributed the PDR to the Committee following the meeting.

Greg Tansley voiced his opposition to taking any official action on this agenda item, citing the written recommended action as “information only” and the notable low attendance due to another PACTS meeting taking place at the same time.

Maureen noted that Jim Tasse is the Chair of the Cape Elizabeth Conservation Committee, which Maureen staffs. Maureen made a motion, based on Route 1's regional significance and the existing multimodal infrastructure in the Town of Yarmouth, to have the PACTS Planning Committee request that MaineDOT consider more robust accommodations for multimodal design on the Exit 15 bridge. Carol Eyerman provided a second on the motion.

Tom Poirier expressed the need for more information about this project—background, budget, what steps have been taken throughout the process up to this point. Theo Holtwijk also mentioned the need for more information about the project. Theo noted that a split vote in this situation would not be beneficial for the process.

Chris Mann also noted that he would oppose the motion because the recommended action was for information. Chris added that he would have had a more in-depth conversation with the project manager at MaineDOT and possibly invited other staff to attend if he had anticipated a vote taking place.

Dan Ostrye expressed that Yarmouth could use technical support from PACTS more than a vote to endorse the project.

Maureen and Carol withdrew the motion and second for the PACTS Planning committee to request that MaineDOT consider more robust accommodations for multimodal design on the Exit 15 bridge.

Alex thanked Dan, Jim, and Sue Ellen for attending the meeting. Alex noted that the Planning Committee should expect to play a role in developing the PACTS Complete Streets Policy. Jamel also thanked the guests and noted his own excitement for the work taking place in Yarmouth and hopes for similar bicycle/pedestrian projects throughout the region.

## **6. Adjourn.**

At approximately 10:30 A.M. Alex adjourned the meeting.