

I-395 / Route 9 Transportation Study Project Advisory Committee – a High-level Summary

The following is a high-level summary of the Public Advisory Committee assembled in support of the MaineDOT's and Federal Highway Administration's I-395 / Route 9 Transportation Study.

Purpose

Public Advisory Committees (PACs) serve as a forum for public debate and discussion on transportation needs and solutions. The purpose of a PAC is to provide a comprehensive and orderly means of involving local interests in a transportation study. The role of the PAC is to advise the MaineDOT and the FHWA on community sentiment about a study. To do so equitably, the PAC must be democratic and representative of opposing points of view, with equal status for each participant in presenting and deliberating the views of their interests. By providing for representation of many different interests, a PAC can help to resolve conflicts between those interests.

Representing all Viewpoints

To be most effective, a PAC must include people who represent the varied and often divergent interest in a community. Membership should fairly represent the concerns of planners, local government officials, environmentalists, businesses and business organizations, neighborhoods and neighborhood groups, the region surrounding the area, and many other diverse interests. Membership in a PAC does not require participants to have sophisticated training or specialized knowledge of transportation studies.

Objectives:

1. to advise the MaineDOT and FHWA on issues
2. to help convey the concerns of local organizations, governments, and businesses to the study team
3. to help relay information presented by the study team back to community groups
4. to help identify transportation deficiencies and needs
5. to help strengthen public understanding of the study process and its regulatory framework
6. to discuss progress, work efforts, and activities

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7. to help build consensus toward a preferred course of action
8. to help ensure that information is understandable to the public seeing it for the first time
9. to help provide continuing visibility and credibility for the public involvement program

PAC Membership

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Email address</i>
Alan Bromley	Holden	947-4511	albromley@roadrunner.com
Rick Bronson, Fire Chief	Brewer	989-3000	rbronson@brewerme.org
Joan Brooks	Eddington	843-6389	none
John Bryant	Holden	827-3700 ext. 113	john.bryant@amforem.biz
John Butts	Holden	843-5151	john@holdenmaine.com
Manley DeBeck, Jr.	Brewer	989-7500	debeck5@aol.com
Rob Kenerson	BACTS	942-6389	rkenerson@emdc.org
Linda Johns, City Planner	Brewer	989-7790	ljohns@brewerme.org
Rodney Lane, Lane Construction		945-0873	RPLane@laneconstruct.com
Charles Plummer	Eddington	989-5258	none
Roger Raymond, Bucksport Town Manager	Bucksport	469-7368	bucksport@acadia.net
Jim Ring, Bangor City Engineer	Bangor	945-4400	jim.ring@bangormaine.gov

PAC Responsibilities

- *Duty of Knowledge:* PAC members should stay informed, ask questions, understand the difference between facts and misconceptions and think strategically. They should communicate issues and concerns from members of the public and exercise reasonable care in explaining transportation issues before them.
- *Duty of Fairness:* PAC members should be open to new ideas and should make deliberate and knowledge-based recommendations. PAC Members should be good stewards when representing the committee, make independent judgments and not be influenced by special interests.
- *Duty of Commitment:* PAC members should spend their valuable and limited time together learning, listening and deliberating on transportation issues within their scope. PAC members should stay focused and not spend time on non-issues or beyond the scope of the study. To actively

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participate in committee discussions and make recommendations, members should be present at each meeting.

Meeting Schedule and Value to the Study

While the PAC does not make decisions about the study, the input of the PAC is important.

The MaineDOT and the FHWA anticipate that the PAC will meet approximately six times during the study. The following table summarizes the purpose of each of these meetings and the PAC's input and how it will inform / influence decision-making by FHWA and MaineDOT.

Study Phases - No. of Meetings	The PAC assists the study team by...	The PAC input is used by the study team to...
Preparation of the DEIS and 404 permit information - 3	Assist in the identification of issues and concerns	Identify and determine the extent of the most important issues to be analyzed Identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant, narrowing the analysis and discussion of these issues
	Provide input by reviewing and supplementing the study team's inventory and impact assessment of sensitive resources, unique features, and local community and economic patterns	Identify and fully develop the potential positive and negative impacts of the alternatives
	Reviewing avoidance and minimization measures and suggesting others	Further avoiding and minimizing impacts to the extent possible
Circulation of the DEIS and 404 permit information - 1	Encouraging others to review the DEIS, help others understand the information, and develop and submit comments to the study team	Confirm the content of the DEIS, make factual corrections and supplement the analysis, if needed, and remain focused on the significant issues to be considered in decision-making

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Preparation of the FEIS and 404 permit information - 1	Reviewing substantive comments received on the DEIS for their importance and make sure the comments are well understood	Facilitate preparation of the FEIS: identification of the preferred alternatives, embody mitigation measures
Availability of the FEIS and 404 permit information and Preparation for the Record of Decision - 1	Communicating the results of the study to others	Promote understanding of the decision-making process
Throughout all Phases	<i>Promoting awareness of the study and participation in public events</i>	<i>Obtain more thorough awareness for the study, its requirements, and its results</i>

Ground Rules

- Attend meetings regularly
- Meetings will begin and end on time
- Act as a liaison between the community and the study team
 - ❖ Bring input to the study team
 - ❖ Share study progress and PAC input with the community
- Provide comments, ask for clarification, request further information, and offer suggestions that are
 - ❖ Representative of others
 - ❖ Representative of professional experience
- Refrain from expressing personal opinions or agenda
- Provide one another and the study team with pertinent information.
- Give each member an equal opportunity to express his or her point of view and opinions
- Respect the personal integrity, values and goals of their fellow members
- Expect disagreements and differences of opinion
- Share a mutual responsibility for assuring that the above operating procedures and ground rules are observed and maintained