

MaineDOT Interagency Meeting Notes

Website: <http://www.mdot/mdot/interagency-meetings/interagency-meetings.php>

Attending Agencies:

Federal Highway
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Army Corps of Engineers
Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
National Marine Fisheries Service
Land Use Regulation Commission
Environmental Protection Agency
Maine Department of Marine Resources
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Maine Department of Conservation – Natural Areas Program

Agencies Absent:

Atlantic Salmon Commission
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
State Planning Office

1. Aroostook County Study, Presented by Ray Faucher, MaineDOT (Powerpoint presentation)

- This will be a Tier NEPA process. Certain sections of the study area will be developed more than others. Future NEPA documents will be required for certain sections of the study area.
- Draft EIS was circulated in February of 2002. FEIS is scheduled for 10/2004. ROD is expected by Early 2005.
- 40 corridors have been narrowed down to 4 corridors.
- All comments from the DEIS have been reviewed and addressed.
- 90 citizen letters were received from review of the DEIS.
- Border crossings were looked at to determine the best location.
- 7 border crossing sites were looked at and it was determined that the crossing needed to be close to Madawaska.
- Sites will not be further evaluated under FEIS. This “mini-study” will be part of a forthcoming study if the MDOT initiates.
- Changes since the DEIS include 2 new highway alignments which will have complete evaluations by spring. A section of Route 1 was looked at for inclusion in a management plan. Still analyzing.
- ACOE has stated that the study needs to focus more on transportation needs than economics.
- Presque Isle bypass includes 3 corridors. 1) is 10.7 miles and is estimated to impact 55 acres of wetland and 133 acres of farmland. 2) is 10.8 miles and is estimated to impact 29.7 acres of wetland and 122 acres of farmland. 3) is 10.5 miles and is estimated to impact 47.8 acres of wetland and 203 acres of farmland.
- Need to determine practicability of Route 1 upgrade from Houlton to Presque Isle (impacts to homes, farms and businesses). Impacts will be compared to corridor 2.
- FEIS will identify preferred corridors-segments. Areas of no further action, areas requiring EA's and detailed analysis of segment 7.
- June 2004 is estimated date to determine preferred alternative.
- Formal meetings with the Micmac and Maliseet tribes have occurred.

-The Aroostook Study will be back at the interagency meeting by June.

2. Lewiston-Auburn Downtown Connector Study, Presented by Duane Scott, MaineDOT (Powerpoint Presentation)

-initial planning by the Lewiston-Auburn planning committee for the L/A downtown connector was presented.

-please see Powerpoint slides under the handout section on the Interagency website.

3. Retreat – DRAFT NOTES

Needs

Informational

- Updates
- Global

Project Specific

- Decisive
- Missing players (important)
- Agenda
- Agency agreement (important)
- Advance packages (info)
- Consider separate meetings for project specific focus
- Closure/recap
- Predictability
- Tailor presentations/discussions to level of complexity and process considerations
- “What” comes to interagency?
- Permit screening?
- Multi-disciplinary
- Use technology
- Timelines and schedules
- Knowing expectations
- ID the red flags
- Data
- Web access and communications
- Protocols
- Predictability
 - Agenda format
- Preparation for the next meeting
 - Provide information for decision at next meeting
- Info meeting/decision meeting 2
- Set agenda for next months meeting
- Info in a timely manner ahead
- Buy in
- Accountability
- Minutes

Planning

- Agency input re resources dialogue
- Early better scoping
- Early mapping

- Feedback/check in
- “Citizen” board model
- Problem sharing

GIS Capability

<i>Agency</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>ME GIS</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>
DMR	A few layers	?	Yes
ACOE	A few layers	?	Yes
MHPC (Maine DOT)	Project by project not data sets	No	Yes
MNAP	Several layers	On the way	Yes
IF&W	Several layers	Possibly Yes	Yes
SPO			
RGS [DUANE PLEASE CONFIRM]			
DEP			
DOC			
NPS			
AS			
Tribal			
USGS			
USFWS			
AG&R			

- Arrange GIS Forum
- Or what do we need?
- Compile inventory of GIS layers *Mark for March 8th meeting*
- ID data limitations
 - Descriptions
 - What availability
 - Current?

Parking Lot

- DEP/SPO
- Separate meetings i.e. “focused”
- “What” level of complexity
- PM connection

The following headings in bold indicate the person(s) or agencies responsible or associated with the tasks listed below.

Dave/ Duane

- PM connection
- Tele-conferencing - Dave
- Protocol/closure/agendas
- Website use -Dave

ACOE/FHWA/EPA

- SCIA
- Cooperating agencies

Dave /Duane

- Maintenance etc
- Ex: culvert evaluation sheet
- Slip lining

All

- Share problems at the website

Emily/ MNAP

- “Beginning with habitat”

Dave/Duane/Ray/Emily

- Appropriate agency contacts within the Maine DOT “Environmental Coordinators”
- List on website

Dave

- ACOE permit application – ID Maine DOT permit staff
- Essential habitat

Duane/ Sylvia

- Maine DOT funding agency positions/services

Maine DOT Interagency Meeting Summary of Meeting Notes

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