

MaineDOT Utility Task Force Meeting
September 17, 2015
MaineDOT Conference Room 216
Chair: Mike Moreau

Attendees: See list at end of document.

Agenda – Downloadable excel Project Data, LD 1124 Modifies Title 35-A – Discuss changes, Manhole Ring Inserts for raising grade – MaineDOT draft policy

Mike invited the group and thanked them for coming. He further shared why there is a small group today; Annual Wastewater Meeting today. Introductions were done.

Downloadable (Excel) Project Data (sample screen shots shared)

- Documents showed path to locate the Excel spreadsheet of Construction Advertised Schedule for current Projects for 2015
- Will have 2016 Construction Advertise Schedule by the end of the year
- Information provides Location/WIN/Schedule/Scope/Program Manager/Cost
- Hoping this information will help scheduling and budgeting your work

Downloadable (Excel) Three-Year Work Plan Project Data

- Mike is working with Planning to get Three-Year Work Plan on the MaineDOT website by January 2016
- As always, the first year has firm schedule and funding;
- 2nd and 3rd years may be more subject to change, but the Department is committed to prioritizing these projects ahead of other candidate projects;

Any questions? Please be in touch if so once you get a chance to review.

Current Project/Schedules

- Dashboard pulls information from ProjEX – spreadsheet should be 85 – 90% correct
- Lockdown date is in October with slight changes happening until final schedule in mid/end of December. Current Project List attached.

LD 1124 Modifies Title 35 –A – discuss changes.

- Amended 35A § 2503 shared with the group (attached)
- Legislation is result of problems with construction projects involving water and wastewater utilities and gas companies
- Changes should help clarify – communication is a must between all
- Changes reviewed with the group.
 - Biggest change in Default Standards. Minimum standards include all areas
 - Underground standards includes underground portions of aboveground facilities such as utility pole bases

Ques. Does that mean aerial utilities are now underground utilities? NO. It simply means that offset distance standards apply to underground face of pole, minimum offset 3 feet, no closer.

- Owner of new planned underground facilities **must** coordinate directly with owners of existing facilities in public way during design phase
- Licensing Authority, clear on who/where
- MaineDOT Utility Accommodation Rules adopted to serve as the minimum standard at all locations, including Urban Compact areas
- Local licensing authorities other than Urban Compacts may adopt underground location standards
- If local authority does not adopt underground location standards, MaineDOT Utility Accommodation Rules govern; exceptions may be granted if licensing authority finds one of the following
 - Presents an exceptional hardship/unreasonable cost
 - All parties have agreed to alternative underground location standards
 - Unique situation exists
 - Underground location standards exceed the limits available for space in ROW

Manhole Ring Inserts for Raising Grade – MDOT developing a policy Draft Attached

- Draft Utility Policy No 15-1 shared with the group.
- A number of MaineDOT projects using different material to raise manholes.
- Some material used is not in MaineDOT standard qualifications
- Draft Policy briefly reviewed by the group; once you review further, if you have any concerns be in touch please. This will become policy this winter

Q – Underground Utilities – is there any information available from other States?

- No, FHWA will provide feedback if information available
- Any time frame in knowing what will be acceptable? Will finalize late fall, early winter

Recurring Items –

- 1.) Utility Betterment/Construction Plans – Request Available Plan Information
 - a. Please share your plans so Planning can be aware to try to avoid conflicts.
- 2.) Construction Lesson Learn – Any issues? No concerns at this time.

Open Forum/Other Business

2016 Construction Plans are not locked down at this point but he will share with DOT when ready – CMP

- Compare DOT Plans with Utility Company Plans – MaineDOT Plans are slightly ahead of CMP plans currently.
- _ Having CMP project list will be usefully for DOT

2017 Projects are hard for CMP to provide at this time. They will be shared as soon as possible.

Thank you for coming and being involved. Meeting Adjourned

Attach: LD1124, Title 35-A Changes

- Draft Utility Policy for Raising Manhole Rims
- Downloadable (Excel) Project Data (sample screen shots shared)
- Dashboard Current Project Schedule Excel Spreadsheet

Minutes by
SWood

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Attendance List**

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