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The 2003 Long Range Plan and 2004-2006 STIP Conformity Analysis for Maine's Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas Including the Metropolitan Planning Organizations : PACTS, ATRC, & KACTS - Addendum, November 3, 2003

Maine Department of Transportation

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Addendum to Previous Plan

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is pleased to present this addendum to its previous long-range transportation plan, which will serve as a technical revision until the Department completes a comprehensive update in 2004. This technical update is necessary to address modified requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and the *Transportation Equity Act of the Twenty-First Century* (TEA-21), which is the applicable federal legislation for long-range transportation planning. TEA-21 requires an air conformity analysis update as part of a long-range transportation plan at least every three years. After releasing this technical update, MaineDOT will proceed with a comprehensive long-range transportation plan update pursuant to the *Sensible Transportation Policy Act of 1991* (STPA) and associated federal and State rules for transportation planning. Maine's existing long-range transportation plan remains in compliance with the STPA and TEA-21.

This technical update also provides MaineDOT the opportunity to incorporate by reference two additional publications developed since the previous long-range transportation plan was finalized. In 2002-2003, MaineDOT released its first biennial State of the System report and its revised Public Involvement Plan entitled Working Together to Build a Better Maine. The State of the System is the most comprehensive assessment of Maine's transportation infrastructure ever undertaken and Working Together to Build a Better Maine serves as a guide for Maine residents to participate in the transportation planning process. Together with this technical update and the Long-Range Transportation Plan Conformity Analysis for 2003-2025, these documents comprise MaineDOT's long-range transportation plan until the Department completes the comprehensive update. All documents are available at www.maine.gov/mdot-stage/.

MaineDOT is continuing its comprehensive long-range transportation plan update into 2004 to better encompass policy changes since the last long-range transportation plan. The 2004-2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan will be the first long-range transportation plan under Governor John E. Baldacci and MaineDOT Commissioner David A. Cole. A 2004 schedule enables Governor Baldacci and Commissioner Cole to present their vision for transportation in Maine over the next twenty years.

MaineDOT is also waiting for the reauthorization of the federal highway programs, anticipated by early 2004. This legislation will outline the federal regulations for transportation planning and provide some indication regarding the amount of federal transportation funding Maine will receive for the first three biennia of the next long-range transportation plan. MaineDOT's current schedule allows the Department to consider any federal actions in early 2004 as part of the comprehensive update.

In addition to potential changes in the federal planning requirements, a 2004 schedule enables MaineDOT to incorporate any changes in the Sensible Transportation Policy Act affecting long-range planning. In 2003, MaineDOT was directed by the State Legislature to amend the STPA planning process in order to integrate transportation and land use planning. Since MaineDOT will discuss proposed changes with the Legislature and receive public comment on proposed language changes in early 2004, this update schedule enables consideration of any changes.

As MaineDOT proceeds with a comprehensive long-range transportation plan update, the Department will consider any public comment received on this technical

update as input into the full update. MaineDOT began the comprehensive update in 2003 by soliciting input from all seven Regional Transportation Advisory Committees (RTAC)s, four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), every state agency and federal partner agencies regarding the Department's mission and transportation goals. MaineDOT also surveyed Maine citizens to determine priorities, knowledge and feelings about transportation. As part of the update thus far, Commissioner Cole has met with RTAC members and Regional Planning Commission staff to discuss regional needs and transportation priorities.

After this technical long-range transportation plan update is finalized, MaineDOT will continue its comprehensive transportation planning process in late 2003 and early 2004 by incorporating input from Department Bureaus and Offices in addition to continued public involvement. MaineDOT anticipates preparing a final plan that reflects the value of transportation in citizens' lives and distinct regions in the state. While safety will continue to be the principal MaineDOT consideration, MaineDOT's long-range plan will reflect the relationships between transportation, the environment, quality of life and Maine's economic vitality. MaineDOT looks forward to continuing the comprehensive update with input and feedback from Maine citizens and the Department's partner organizations.

Copies of this technical update have been circulated to the RTACs, MPOs and the Federal Highway Administration. MaineDOT also prepared a legal notice announcing this technical update in newspapers of record. Copies are also available at all seven MaineDOT Division Offices and the State's depository libraries. MaineDOT will accept comments on this technical update to be incorporated into the comprehensive long-range transportation plan until December 18, 2003. Comments may be provided via e-mail at LRTP.MaineDOT@maine.gov or in writing to MaineDOT Bureau of Planning, 16 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, Attention: Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Following is MaineDOT's prior Long-Range Plan. The comprehensive update underway will reflect changes that have taken place in Maine since the previous plan was developed.