

2-9-2009

## Piscataquis River Bridge, Howland : Meeting Documentation, February 9, 2009

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## MEETING DOCUMENTATION



**Project** Howland, Route 116 over the Piscataquis River, PIN 15635  
**Meeting Location** MaineDOT Bangor Regional Office  
**Subject** Utility and other overall project coordination (see attached agenda)  
**Present**  
See attached sign-in sheet

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**Job #** 42174-DS-450-001  
**Meeting** February 6, 2009

### Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to share and gather information regarding the current course of the project, in particular the new southern alignment (Alt. #5), which is going to need a significant amount of utility and other coordination.

Greg gave an overview of the project to all present, detailing the results of the December 16, 2008 public meeting and the subsequent design of the new southern alignment that has transpired since then. This is the alignment which will be going forward to the Design-Build RFQ/RFP process, and will be presented to the public in an informational meeting on February 24, 2009.

Jeff Reardon gave a status update of the fish bypass channel project. They have just applied for permits, which he anticipates will take a year or so to obtain, so site work could begin in a year or so. They are hoping to start in the 2011/2012 timeframe, and will start with decommissioning the powerhouse. Much still has to do with the business deal they are working with Pennsylvania Power and Light (PPL). How much longer they will continue to generate power is a big question, especially now given the necessity of moving Bangor Hydro's transmission lines for the new bridge. An economic analysis needs to be performed as to the revenue generated from continuing to produce power at the dam (and for how long) versus removal or relocation of the transmission lines. The powerhouse access road will likely be gated, and will be used for maintenance purposes only, therefore not much traffic coming into that intersection. The road can be shared with Bangor Hydro for future access to their poles on the west side. Jeff sees that there could be an overlap with the fishway construction in the 2011 timeframe. If all goes well, they could potentially start other sitework and building demolition as early as 2010. There is a definite need to coordinate schedules.

Bangor Hydro gave an update as to how the project will affect them. They feel that both ends of the transmission line will need to be relocated, not just the east side, costing approximately \$400k to \$450k. Because there is no room left to guy, the east side will require a self-supporting structure,

### Action/Response

Calvin Seeley will remain as the MaineDOT utility contact for the project in the near future. Plans are however, to have the Design-Build team take over the utility coordination process as the project unfolds.

Jeff will get back to the River Restoration Trust group and talk to the PPL personnel on the economics of the whole situation to try and get a resolution on where their project is headed. Calvin will try and set up a meeting with PPL, so that more project specifics can be determined.

## Meeting Documentation (cont'd.)



**Project** Howland – Route 116 over the Piscataquis River

**Meeting Location** MaineDOT Bangor Regional Office

**Job #** 42174-DS-450-001

**Meeting Date** 2/6/2009

which will cost approximately \$250k on it's own. Also will need soil borings taken on that side for design purposes. The distribution lines also need to be moved out of the way. Depending on the timing of when power is finished being generated by the dam, could use the transmission lines to carry the distribution load, then use a step-down transformer on the east side to convert it back, otherwise the east-side structure can be designed to support both the trans. and dist. linework. In the interest of time, Bangor Hydro will entertain having the Design-Build team perform the design and construction of the new crossings (structures and layout). The crossing needs to be designed, approved by Bangor Hydro, and then built. Will need to coordinate with Bangor Hydro's engineers to get specifics. Any bridge lighting will need it's own meter in the future (possible ornamental lighting). They are in their own Right of Way for both sets of power lines, so they will be seeking reimbursement for their moves. Bangor Hydro provided the group with a detailed property map of their facilities, showing Rights of Way, easements, etc.

Mid-Maine Telecommunications currently run a combination of copper and fiber through the existing truss. They would like to get on the new bridge in conduit. Two four-inch conduits would be preferable for them. Speaking on behalf of Polaris Cable Services, the group decided that future cable could be accommodated on the new bridge in conduit as well. They currently span the river on the set of poles carrying Bangor Hydro's distribution lines, and therefore, will need to do a temporary move (support off old bridge while new one built?).

Al Hodson, as the Town's Engineer, spoke on behalf of the Howland Water and Sewer departments. They plan to permanently relocate to the north side of the existing bridge, from River Road to Water Street. They are looking at going with directional boring with HDPE pipe for both the water and sewer. Water is realistically the first one that needs to move, as they will be in the way of Bangor Hydro's move of the utility poles on the east side. They are currently seeking funding, and if approved, could begin work as early as May of 2009. Assuming an 8 week construction schedule, they could be out of the way (located approximately 100' upstream, north of the boat ramp) by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The water main is in their own Right of Way, so they will be seeking reimbursement for that move.

The Town of Howland Selectmen presented the group with their comments and concerns. They are pleased with the new alignment and

Additional soil borings, for utility purposes, will be put in the Design-Build RFP process.

Greg will get contact information from Bangor Hydro for their engineers, and get design parameters. Criteria for qualifying the DB team for this kind of work will be put into the RFQ and RFP documents.

Greg will have the map included in the RFP as background information.

Greg will have a conduit bank for utility purposes put into the RFP design criteria for the new bridge.

Calvin to contact Polaris and see what their plans might be for a temporary move.

## Meeting Documentation (cont'd.)

# HNTB

**Project** Howland – Route 116 over the Piscataquis River

**Job #** 42174-DS-450-001

**Meeting Location** MaineDOT Bangor Regional Office

**Meeting Date** 2/6/2009

how it addresses the concerns raised in the Public Meeting, but are still concerned about what affect the raised profile/embankment will have on the flooding that currently occurs through the east side intersection and how that may affect the Corner Store and other properties to the north that don't currently get flooded.

There was much discussion around the incorporation of a snowmobile path into the bridge design; in order to connect two established ITS designated trails to the north and south. How best to incorporate it, what type of surface to use, who maintains the path and how, funding, and other items pertinent to the trail were discussed at length. The break in the guardrail on the west side, for the powerhouse access road, will be an excellent spot for the southerly trail to transition onto the new bridge. The east side will still need to be evaluated. The Department of Conservation (DOC) apparently designates what is an ITS trail and what is not. The Town needs to talk with the DOC and get their buy-in for including the bridge as a legitimate link and thus connecting the whole system.

Relocation of the ice rink is a concern for the Town. The rink is used a lot by children as well as parents. Actual flooding of the rink is a key component to the relocation, with ready access to a hydrant being a driving factor. They used to pump out of the river, but that is now impractical. Matt has sent the Town a letter requesting their input on the use of the rink, for his use in the environmental documentation for the project.

The Town would like to salvage a portion of the truss member that has the plaque attached, in order to use in a public monument type of setting. This is similar to what was done on the Brewer side of the Bangor-Brewer truss bridge replacement a few years ago.

The westerly intersection was discussed. The Town saw no issue with either turn lanes or a traffic signal, and did not see the taking of the white building on the corner as an issue. Bruce Mattson spoke of doing turn lanes as a first step, before going to the next step of a signalized intersection. He would like to get some turning movements and other traffic counts to get a better feel for how the traffic flows and in what primary directions it goes. The counts will also help determine the required length of storage for the turn lanes. The Town confirmed that there is indeed a lot of truck traffic in the area, and that sitting on Route 155, waiting to turn left to go over the bridge, is currently the biggest problem. Bruce also recommended that the Route 2 left (as shown) should be a left-through, with a separate right turn lane. Also remove the stop-bars (as shown) for the through movement of Route 155 over the bridge. The easterly entrance to the Credit Union should also be closed off, in

Greg is having Northstar Hydro (the hydraulics subconsultant) address this as one of the first priorities in their study. Not making the flooding worse, as a result of a new bridge, will be part of the RFP design and scoring criteria.

The Town will contact their local snowmobile club and the DOC to get more trail design and location specifics, so that Greg can include this in the RFP documentation. Matt gave the Town his contact information for the DOC.

Proximity of a water main will be used as a criterion in the search for a new rink location.

Greg will put this request for salvage of the steel in the RFP documentation for the project special provisions.

Bruce will arrange to have traffic counts and turning movements performed in the near future. This data will need to be assessed and then used in the RFP documentation.

Greg will revise the plans so they show correctly for the February 24<sup>th</sup> informational meeting in Howland.

## Meeting Documentation (cont'd.)



**Project** Howland – Route 116 over the Piscataquis River

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accordance with MaineDOT Access Management rules. Who plows and maintains what in the future was discussed. The DOT will likely turn over the remainder of River Road to the Town.

Matt Steele discussed the environmental permitting process for the project. Based on the concept design, permits may be in-hand for the project as early as June.

Project schedule was discussed. As currently planned, the RFQ is going out this month, the draft RFP going out in April, final RFP going out in late June, with award of the Design-Build contract in the October/November timeframe.

The foregoing constitutes our understanding of the matters discussed and the conclusions reached. If there are any questions, corrections, omissions, or additional comments, please advise the author within five working days after receipt of these minutes.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UTILITY SECTION  
BUREAU OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Pre-Coordination Meeting Attendance Sheet

TOWN: **HOWLAND**

LOCATION: **PISCATAQUIS RIVER BRIDGE**

PIN: **15635.00**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 5, 2009**

| NAME           | ORGANIZATION                        | OFFICE & CELL PHONE          | E-MAIL                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Calvin Seeley  | MaineDOT                            | 624-3506 / 592-1693          | calvin.seeley@maine.gov                    |
| FRANK Kirsch   | Howland<br>Selectman                | 732-3513                     |  |
| Rick Thompson  | Howland/Select                      | 732-3513                     |  |
| JOEY DUNN      | Howland/SELECT                      | 290-5928<br>732-3513         |  |
| MIKE HARRIS    | Howland Select                      | 732-3513                     |  |
| Dave Blanchard | MID MAINE COMM                      | 688-8924                     | dave.blanchard@pinetree.net <sup>COM</sup> |
| Jim Taplin     | Mid Maine Comm                      | 688-8924                     | jim.taplin@pinetree.net <sup>COM</sup>     |
| Steve Bodge    | Maine DOT                           | 624-3356                     | stephen.bodge@maine.gov                    |
| Michael Wight  | Maine DOT                           | 624-3435<br>592-2543 C       | Michael.Wight@Maine.gov                    |
| Jeff Reardon   | Penob Trust                         | 430-0145<br>615-9200 (bat #) | jreardon@tu.org                            |
| DAVE BRAGG     | MILONE &<br>MILBROOK                | 845-1358<br>866-796-805E     | daveb@miloneandmilbrook.com                |
| Al Hodsdon     | A.E Hodsdon<br>Engineer for Howland | 873-5164                     | ahodsdon@prexar.com                        |
| BRIAN DAWSON   | Town of<br>Howland                  | 732-3767                     | howland@midmaine.com                       |



**Project Name**

Howland

**Date of Meeting**

February 6, 2009



**Project #**

MaineDOT PIN 15635.00  
HNTB 42174-DS-450

**Location**

MaineDOT Bangor Region Office

**Purpose of Meeting**

Utility Coordination and  
River Restoration Trust Meeting

**Time**

9:00 am

**Participants**

|                         |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| MaineDOT, HNTB          | Penobscot River   | Town of Howland |
| Utility representatives | Restoration Trust |                 |

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. Project Overview – Feasibility Study Update
  - a. Results of preliminary public meeting
  - b. Status of Alternative #5, Southern Alignment
  - c. Status of Dam Bypass Channel project (Penobscot River Restoration Trust)
2. Utility relocation/replacement – aerial (temporary/permanent)
  - a. Electric (Bangor Hydro) – Distribution and Transmission
  - b. Telephone (Mid-Maine Telecom)
  - c. Cable (Polaris Cable Services)
3. Utility relocation/replacement – underground (temporary/permanent)
  - a. Water (Town of Howland)
  - b. Sewer (Town of Howland)
4. Design & Construction – Design-Build process
  - a. Town of Howland concerns
  - b. Construction phasing
  - c. Powerhouse access road location/timing
  - d. Maintenance of traffic
5. Environmental – permitting status
6. Right of Way status
7. Design-Build Project Schedule
  - a. RFP/RFQ development
  - b. Construction