

**Route 3 Task Force**  
**8/23/2012**  
**Bar Harbor Savings Bank Meeting Room**

Attending: Chris Fogg, Matt Horton ([mhorton@machiassavings.com](mailto:mhorton@machiassavings.com)), Stephanie Clement FOA, John Kelly NPS, Paul MacDonald MaineDOT, Fred Michaud MaineDOT, Jim Fisher HCPC, Paul Paradis Town of Bar Harbor, Chip Reeves Town of Bar Harbor, Ben Garland, Carol Woodcock – Sen. Collins office

**Agenda** – Moved and adopted

**Regular business**

**Bluffs Section – Route 3**

Fred Michaud - MaineDOT has looked at the Bluffs Section

- The current turnout is not a formal facility
- There is not a state interest in having a turnout
- The state would replace built facilities like existing sidewalks
- They can build the turnout, but do not have funding to do so
- The other partners have until June 13, 2013 to raise sufficient funds to pay for a turnout

John Kelly

- Are the bluffs not a state interest?
  - Fred – not according to decision makers at MaineDOT
  - As a byway, there is an interest, but no existing funds
- Paul MacDonald – MaineDOT is going to build as much of the CSS design as possible
- Matt Horton – has heard local support for cutting into the bluff to create the clear zone for rocs
  - Would present challenges for ANP
  - Bluff might not be stable
- Carol – congress is likely to operate under a six month continuing resolution
  - There is nothing for the new programs in the CR
  - Unlikely that there will be a program until next spring
- John Kelly – ANP funding is also locked up until congress makes more progress
- Fred – it is possible that the byway program could do another RFP under continuing resolution

Chris Fogg – are we trading an unlikely safety problem for a likely one?

- Cars will still want to stop – but without space
- This reconstruction is a rare opportunity. It should be done right.
- John Kelly – MaineDOT will probably have to post a number of No Stopping signs – further obscuring the view

Paul Paradis

- What funding is available?
- Stephanie
  - Only \$300,000 under MAP 21 will be disbursed to the State for projects like this – not sufficient for this concept
  - Other programs have lost funding
- John – the park does not have any highway funds – only funds for Park Roads
- Would like to see the engineering questions go to the CSS committee, leave this committee to work on funding.

John Kelly

- Is there an opportunity for a pullout on the Ellsworth end of the bluffs?
- Would the cost be less?
- If we identify more space, could MaineDOT pave the shoulder wider in that area?
  - Fred – this might be possible
  - Would be wide shoulder, not a formal scenic turnout

Paul MacDonald

- MaineDOT is not going to fund a turnout regardless of the location
- MaineDOT is waiting for a geological study to learn about cutting into the rock face
- A few consultants have visited the site
- Kitty is reviewing their reports
- There are permitting issues that need to be considered
  - National Park – 4F process
  - Possible historic designation
  - Need to consider the cost of permitting in the overall project
- Current funding is for Preliminary Engineering which has already started
- Construction may be done all at once or in phases
  - This may be too much work for one season – given the need to move utilities
- There will be a significant number of meetings going forward
- Timeline
  - PE Report – Spring 2014
  - Public Hearing
  - Fall 2014 – plan impact complete
    - Impacts on land owners, environment
    - Includes temporary rights
  - Fall 2014 – Right of Way start working with land owners
    - Takes significant time – need all the deeds
    -
  - Fall 2015 – PS&E Report Plan Specifications and Estimates
    - More review occurs at this state

- Summer 2016 – Advertise the project

Matt Horton

Matt Horton

- What are the options
  - Move road over for the rock-fall and lose the turnout
  - Cut into the rock face and keep road where they are
- Want to do this project right the first time.
- The safety concerns are greater moving the road close to the cliff, even with a guard rail
- Suggest cutting the cliff back 10' if the geological study supports it
- Keep the road where it is
- Pave the existing shoulder
- Remove bushes and trees that obstruct the view

Stephanie Clement

- Recommend providing an update of this and other decisions to the CSS committee
- The CSS groups can also reflect on their priorities
- If we found private funds – would MaineDOT build it?
  - Yes
- So, this group has done what it set out to do
  - Established that MaineDOT will not fund a turnout
  - Town is not going to fund this turnout
  - Private funding may be the only option
- The CSS group can look at engineering alternatives, like an alternative location for a turnout

Fred Michaud

- The park loop road has a scenic turnout – but trees have grown up blocking the view
- Is creating a better turnout on the park loop road an alternative
- Jim- not realistic. People make spontaneous decisions to pull off at the bluffs. A proper turnout would have warning signs and other information to avoid dangerous spontaneous turns.

Paul MacDonald – what are the roles of the Route 3 Task Forces and the CSS Committee

- Paul Paradis – the task force is primarily here to work on funding and town decisions
- Matt Horton – we are talking about funding, but we need to look at design alternatives to do this

Carol Woodcock

- Current authorization is MAP 21
- Appropriations have not been made
- Regulations will be put out after appropriations
- Estimating Maine's share of access to Federal lands may be between \$300,000 and \$400,000

Next Steps:

- Paul MacDonald – Continue with Preliminary Engineering Program
- Fred Michaud – Check with Ron Beard about future role in CSS – potential conflict of interest
- Paul Paradis – Report to council – either September 4<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Estimated cost of this turnout is \$1 million to \$1.5 million
  - MaineDOT is not paying for the overlook
  - Town cannot – as this would be improving someone else’s land
  - Park does not have resources
  - Last opportunity – Private funding through area non-profits
  - CSS Committee will be looking at options for maintaining access to a vista with available resources
- Stephanie – will report findings from the Task Force to the CSS Committee
- Carol Woodcock – will keep the task force informed about legislative and funding changes

Move to adjourn