

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
6 February 2006

Present: Don Jones, Chairman; Jo Bryer; Cindy Fischer

Absent: Lois Kwantz; Seaver Leslie; Sean Rafter

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. The minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2005 were reviewed. Cindy pointed out that the word decided was misspelled in two places in paragraph five. The minutes were adopted as corrected.

Don handed out for review and discussion copies of four documents that had been distributed at the Gateway1 Steering Committee on February 1: Gateway1-SC Agenda; G1-SC Rules of order; G1 policy on participation of Non-Governmental Organizations; G1 timeline for 2006-7. Don then led the committee through a discussion of the seven major findings of the Origin and Destination Survey that had been conducted throughout the corridor by the G1 Study Team last August. He urged the members to make note that the first regional meetings for the five G1 regions were scheduled for sometime in March, and to consider sitting in on the G1 region 2 meeting at a time and place to be determined. Don also announced the Gateway1 Conference at the Samoset Inn in Rockland scheduled for sometime in May.

The next item on the agenda was the Wiscasset Bypass Study. Don handed out copies of a letter from Frank Chiaravalloti of Garrand and Company that provided new information on the bypass study process. The draft Environmental Impact Statement is now expected to be released sometime in March 2006. A facilitated negotiation among Wiscasset, Edgecomb and surrounding towns will commence in March after the official release of the DEIS, and will be based upon its findings. Wiscasset has been requested to appoint three representatives to participate in what will be called the Midcoast Bypass Task Force. Edgecomb has also been requested to appoint three representatives. Damariscotta, Newcastle, Westport, and Alna have each been asked to appoint one representative.

An organizational meeting of the Midcoast Bypass Task Force is planned for the week of February 20, prior to the release of the DEIS, in order to set a six month schedule of meetings to complete the task by September 2006. At their January 31 meeting the Wiscasset selectmen appointed Bill Barnes, Andrew Gilmore, and Don Jones as the three Wiscasset representatives to the Task Force.

The next agenda item was the Bath Road Study. Don reported on a recent meeting between the town manager, MDOT staff and Lincoln/Sagadahoc Jail director at which the limbo status of the Bath Road Study was addressed. The

Jail will apparently forego participation in the Bath Road Study, and fully fund on its own, the necessary turn lanes required by the MDOT. The Department has diverted to other uses the funds originally set aside for the Bath Road Study. Kathy Fuller of MDOT has pledged that if the Town of Wiscasset will first agree to provide \$50,000 she will try to identify sufficient funds within the Department to allow the Bath Road Study to proceed.

Under other business Don reported that the selectmen had refused to close Tucker's Hill for winter sliding as unanimously recommended by the WTC. The closing was opposed by Greg Shaw, who is an adjacent landowner, and by Chief of Police Emmons. Don also reported that a vote on the Middle Street parking changes, which had been recommended by Chief Emmons and the WTC, was postponed for further study.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm. The next meeting will be on Monday April 3 at the Lincoln County Economic Development Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Jones, Chairman