

Draft recommendations for discussion at the May 4th Committee meeting

Alternative Modes of Transportation

Bus Service:

- Support the proposed ShuttleBus route changes and “Pulse” project, along with creating a “hub” for the system at the Saco Transportation Center
- Work toward encouraging and providing other modes of transportation at the Transportation Center
- Work with the Shuttlebus to enhance/improve service throughout the downtown focus area
- Continue annual funding commitment for ShuttleBus service
- According to the latest Census figures, 39% of workers who live in Saco also work in either Saco or Biddeford. Work with ShuttleBus and employers in the downtown focus area to promote employee use of bus service to get to and from work.

Passenger Rail Service:

- Continue active participation in the Downeaster station committee meetings
- Work with Downeaster staff to create more promotional material, ticket discount options and package deals focused on Saco area opportunities, activities and events
- Work with the Downeaster to explore options for future commuter service to and from Portland.

GoMaine

- Work with employers to promote the GoMaine program – especially for employees in the downtown focus area (to help with parking, etc.)

Funding

- Where appropriate, continue to apply for more MaineDOT Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) funding for road projects, including the new MPI program through the Portland Metropolitan Planning Organization (PACTS).
- Continue participating in the PACTS process, including Committee membership and any studies affecting Saco. One important example is the current PACTS High Crash Location (HCL) analysis.
- Take a more active role in the PACTS HCL review project. Saco has several crash locations in the downtown focus area that will be reviewed as part of the study.

Traffic Signals

- Support possibility of MaineDOT taking over more maintenance responsibility for traffic signals
- Follow through with PACTS signal project/coordination project
- Encourage the integration of smart technology that better reflects the needs of unique traffic patterns and results in more efficient traffic flow through the City – this may also encourage more motorists to travel through the City instead of avoiding it on local / state-aid roads (refer to the *MaineDOT Traffic Count Trends 2007-2013 maps, Outside of Downtown Focus Area* to see the increase in traffic on roads outside of downtown area).

Maine Turnpike

- Work with Maine Turnpike Authority to address current and future Exit 36 capacity issues and possible projects
- Work with the Maine Turnpike Authority to continue exploring the idea of an additional Maine Turnpike interchange between Exit 32 and Exit 36, as it would directly impact the downtown area if constructed.
- Participate in the upcoming engineering feasibility study to connect Exit 36 to Route 112 – “Route 112 Bypass” concept.

Bicycle / Pedestrian Network

- Work with the Eastern Trail Management District to assess conditions on the ET on-road sections in Saco and prioritize any needed improvements.

- Focus on improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along Elm Street (Route 1), Main Street (Route 1), and Beach Street (Route 9)
- Encourage the use of the off-road ET trail for transportation and recreation purposes
- Adopt a Complete Streets Policy
- Continue to provide regular maintenance of sidewalks, and develop capital improvement plan for major repairs and additional sidewalk sections
- Explore the idea of adding bike racks at public places throughout the downtown. This could include a “sponsorship program” where businesses provide funding for bike racks. PACTS also provides racks at a lower cost.
- Explore the idea of constructing an additional bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Saco River, possibly in the area between Main Street on Saco Island and Front Street.
- Consider alternating one way streets between Elm and Main Streets which would result in safer bicycle and pedestrian conditions (similar to Water Street)
- Establish a bike-share program in the downtown area.

Parking

- Continue to review feasibility and cost/benefit of constructing a parking garage at the Saco Transportation Center (especially with the ShuttleBus Pulse system changes).
- Encourage regular parking assessments to ensure efficiency
- Review current parking standards and ordinance language

Road Projects

- Consider the idea of constructing a round-about at the intersection of Routes 112 / 5 / 9 / 1

Regional Cooperation

- Continue active participation in the ME-NH Traffic Incident Management Committee
- Continue participation in the Joint Biddeford Saco Council Steering Committee and discussion of joint transportation projects.

Cost Saving Strategies

- Complete a cost/benefit analysis for the possibility of having City take over street light ownership from Central Maine Power
- Continue participating in the road salt bid option through the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission cooperative purchasing program.