

Midcoast TIM Group Meeting
June 17, 2021
1130-0100
Waldoboro Town Office and Via Zoom

1. Welcome and Introductions

Those in attendance:

John Lash, Waldoboro Police

David Allen, Maine DOT

Dianne Rice Hansen, BACTS

Michelle Boucher, IBI Group (hired by the State to do an TIM Strategic Plan)

Peter Cusalito, Ranger (Sub to IBI on the State Contract)

Emily Rabbe, Lincoln County Planning Commission

Tara Doe, Director Lincoln County 911

Steve Landry, Maine DOT

Branden Kane, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

2. Recent Incident Reviews

Accident on Route 1 in front of Moody's Diner. The incident went well as they were able to get two lanes open rather quickly.

3. Statewide Updates

IBI Group has been hired by the State to develop a TIM Strategic Plan. Their first task is to develop an existing conditions report. Michelle asked the group if there were any known documents that were developed specifically for this group and if there were could they please be shared with her. Those in attendance were not aware of any but Dianne will check with Eric Sanderson as they used to run this group when it first started up. Michelle asked if anyone had any thoughts or wanted to discuss any of the current objectives. The Maine TIM program focuses on the following objectives:

- ❖ Increase responder safety by eliminating struck-by incidents, injuries, and fatalities.
- ❖ Minimize impacts to the free flow of traffic
- ❖ Decrease incident clearance time
- ❖ Decrease secondary incident occurrences
- ❖ Improve inter-agency communication during incidents

David Allen said he felt they were all good goals but also thought that interagency communication should be at the top of the list because with good communication the other goals fall into place.

IBI will also be looking at the existing training program and helping to develop some virtual type training.

Dianne asked if Peter Cusolito would like to talk about the training program he has developed in Massachusetts. Peter went over the training section and what he has done in

other states. He also talked about developing a virtual self paced class. FHWA does currently have a self paced training in place but it has not been updated since 2014 and the complaint is it takes hours to complete the course. If the Maine TIM group were to develop a self paced training platform it would need to have some sort of tracking mechanism to verify participation. He is also looking at live in person and virtual training sessions. He would like to have some feedback from current trainers and Dianne will pull together a meeting of all trainers she is working with to have this discussion offline. If anyone who is not a trainer would like to share anything about training protocols please send those to Dianne

There was some discussion on how to bring more people to the table in these meetings. What we can we do to attract and keep people interested. Having lunch as part of the meeting is certainly a good incentive however MaineDOT has adopted a strict policy on food purchases. Peter mentioned having a sponsor that might buy lunch for the group. Michelle asked if we combined these meetings with after incident reviews would that bring more people in. The problem is we were not aware of the incidents until the day of the meeting. Dianne mentioned she was trying to be more proactive in getting that information and having it on the agenda moving forward. This is one of the ongoing agenda items we would like to see. We have gone to a quarterly meeting rotation to keep the agenda full and have more to discuss. Guest speakers are another thought. If there is a major construction project going on in an area having the consultant come in and discuss the project with the group could be helpful.

Agency updates:

Steve noted that traffic overall has for the most part resumed to pre pandemic state. The Wiscasset area has had a 5 % increase in traffic just this past weekend and it will continue to grow. Because we had such a long period of minimal traffic we had minimal incidents but as things continue to become busier we most certainly start to see an increase in incidents

There is construction going on in several areas. David said there are two projects in Edgecomb towards Newcastle. One that will heavily impact the intersection of 1 and 27 in Edgecomb. A lot of the work will however be done at night to limit the impacts to traffic. Day time must maintain two full lanes which can be done using shoulders etc. There will also be a detour in place so that traffic cannot come out into that intersection. Just past the Cross Road there is 6 to 8 miles of paving that brings you into New Castle

There is another paving project that begins at the Rockland town line heading north there is also a utility project sandwiched in the middle of that. This will have significant impacts to traffic flow. Again we are trying to do as much as we can at night to limit those impacts however it seems that most incidents are likely to happen at night. We plan on having Route 1 down to one lane at night in both places.

Going further north there is utility work being done in Searsport. There is also a train bridge that will need to be replaced/repared in Frankfort on the Old Belfast Road but not

sure what impacts to traffic that will have since it is not a road we would typically use as a detour anyway.

Steve confirmed that the Waldoboro Fire Chief will be receiving one of the folding variable message boards. Dianne will provide Steve's information to John and Paul.



Steve shared with Michelle that he purchased 4 of these folding variable message signs which will be going to State Police in Bangor, Hancock County, Downeast and then one to the Waldoboro Fire Department. He anticipates them to be in very soon and will be in contact to distribute. Other items he has purchased are large screens to be used at fatality scenes and the hockey puck lights to be used for alerting drivers. They ask to have folks try them out to see if it is something they may purchase again. Steve has not had much feedback on the screens yet. Peter told him there was a

report out on those screens and he can forward that to him. At one point Federal Highway told us we could not buy equipment but have since changed their minds and we now can.

John Lash wanted to share that currently staffing is so low across all disciplines that in many cases response and clearance times can be slower. As an example the local towing company is so short staffed that if they have a car accident involving 3 vehicles that company will have to return 3 times because it only has the one truck on the road. Law enforcement officers may be as far away as an hour so it will take longer for him to arrive on scene. He just wants everyone to be aware of these impacts due to the staffing shortages.

4. Training Update:

There will be two responder training classes being held in Hancock on July 14 and Bangor July 19 both classes will be held from 8 AM to 12 PM. Please see attached training announcement for more details. Dianne is still trying to put together a training in the Lincoln County area. Once she can get trainers in place she will get this scheduled. By July 1, the hope is restrictions on mask mandates will lighten up even more, which will allow us more facilities to hold the training classes at.

5. Next Meeting Dates:

- a. September 16, 2021 1130-0100 In person/virtual
- b. December 16, 2021 1130-0100 Virtual only due to time of year.

6. Adjourn