



ROUTE 24 CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

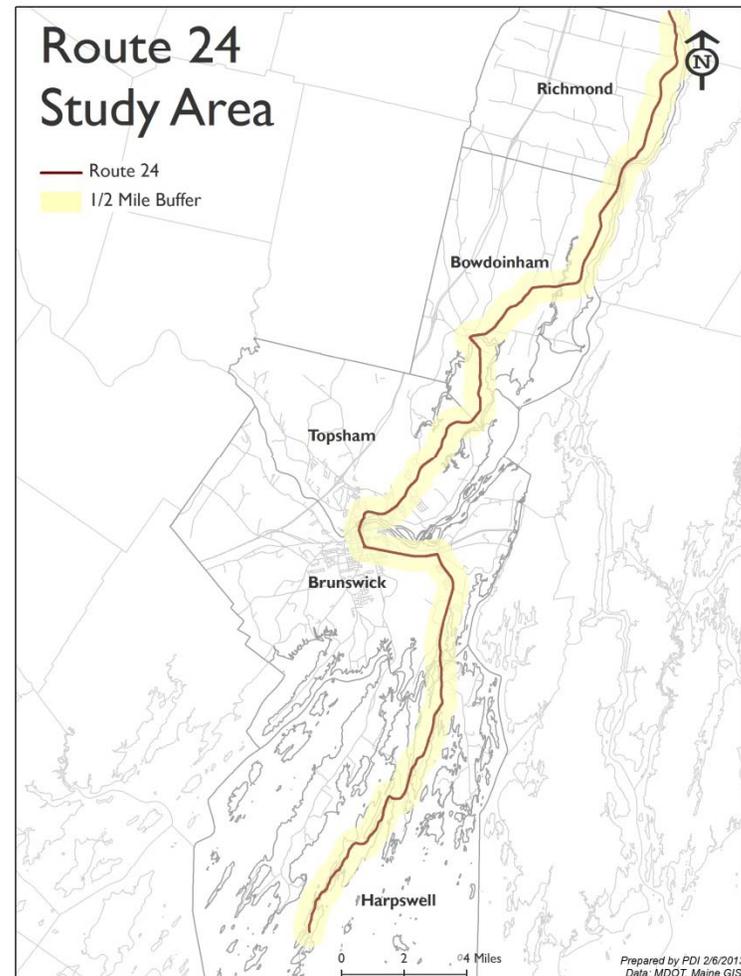
February 2013

HARPSWELL, BRUNSWICK, TOPSHAM,
BOWDOINHAM AND RICHMOND



Why Route 24?

- Maine DOT has designated Route 24 as a Corridor of Regional Economic Significance for Transportation (CREST) in the region



Purpose of Corridor Plan

- Identify priority investments and strategies for the region
- Guide MaineDOT investments in the future
- Create plan for future MaineDOT funding opportunities *(there is currently no specific budget allocated for plan implementation)*

Committee Members

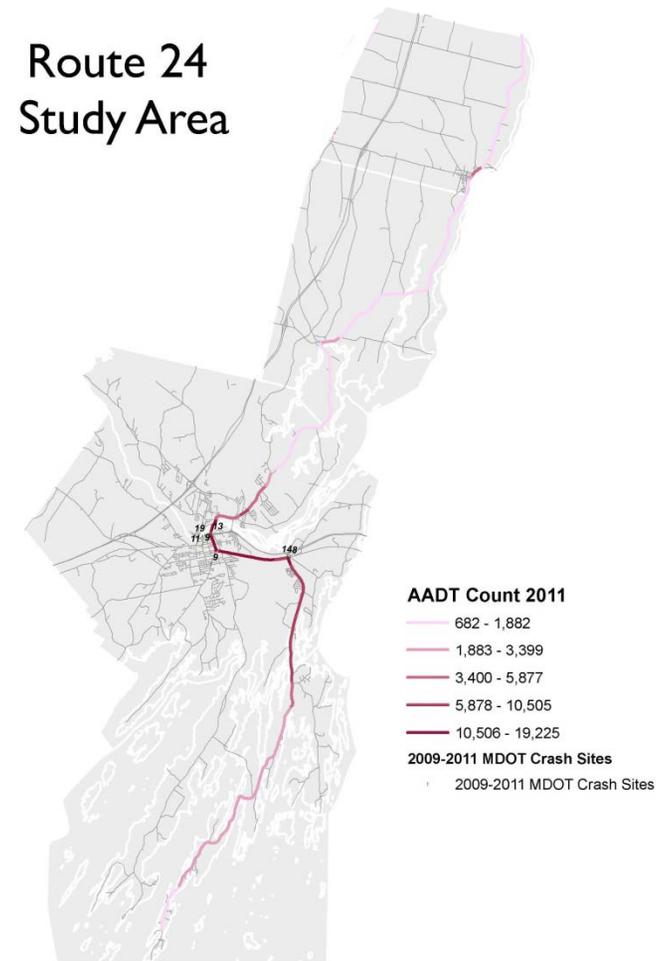
Nicole Briand, Town Planner	Bowdoinham
Anna Breinich, Director of Planning and Development	Brunswick
Jim Howard, Route 24 Business Owner	Topsham
Richard Cromwell, Resident	Brunswick
William Wilkoff, Resident	Brunswick
Margo Knight, Town Councilor	Brunswick
Carol Eyerman, Town Planner	Harpswell
Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator	Harpswell
Ralph "Chip" Black, Route 24 Business Owner	Harpswell
Tony Barrett, Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission	Harpswell
Clarence ("Clancy") Cummins, Selectman	Richmond
Victoria Boundy, Dir. of Community and Business Development	Richmond
Tom Nugent, Planning Board	Richmond
Bruce Moore, Resident	Topsham
Wes Thames, Resident	Topsham
Cornell Knight, Town Manager	Topsham
Donald Russell, Selectman	Topsham
Richard Roedner, Planning Director	Topsham
Victor Langelo, Resident	Topsham
Bob Bruce, Merrymeeting Wheelers	Wiscasset

Process

1. Interview town officials to identify corridor issues and concerns
2. Public meeting to identify issues and concerns
3. Advisory committee meetings to:
 - review data, further develop the list of issues and concerns, and define a purpose and objectives for the plan
 - identify strategies to meet the regional objectives
4. Public meetings to respond to the draft recommendations.
5. Plan approval by the advisory committee
6. Adoption by the Midcoast Council of Governments
7. Municipality endorsement
8. MaineDOT approval

Committee considered

- Population, household, commute data
- Road traffic, crash and condition data
- Existing plans and regulations



Route 24 Objectives

1. Ensure safe travel for all corridor users, including vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists;
2. Maintain the capacity of the corridor;
3. Provide coordinated signage and marketing;
4. Address storm surge inundation, particularly with regard to emergency routes; and
5. Re-route Route 24 out of the downtowns of Brunswick and Topsham to remedy high traffic impacts.

1. Ensure safe travel for all corridor users, including vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists

- Strategy 1: Adopt a “Complete Streets” approach
 - Future MaineDOT improvements on Route 24 will be targeted toward all users – including vehicle drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.
 - MaineDOT will adopt a statewide Complete Streets policy for state roads.
 - Route 24 towns will support efforts of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and GrowSmart Maine to promote Complete Streets policies in Maine.

1. Ensure safe travel for all corridor users, including vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists

- Strategy 2: Make improvements in paved shoulders and bike lanes
 - The Merrymeeting Wheelers (and other local organizations) will extend the bikeability audit of Harpswell and Brunswick to the rest of Route 24 – and include walkability audits in urban areas and village centers.
 - Towns along Route 24 will create lists of targeted improvement areas for MDOT.
 - MaineDOT will stripe a fog line along Route 24 in locations where there is an 11-foot travel lane.
 - MaineDOT will maintain existing shoulders and travel lane width along Route 24.

1. Ensure safe travel for all corridor users, including vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists

- *Strategy 3: Ensure road maintenance to address poor conditions*
 - MaineDOT will sweep Route 24 shoulders every spring. The Merrymeeting Bridge will be swept in April (earlier than usual) because of the barriers.
 - MaineDOT will repair Route 24 shoulders as part of other maintenance projects.
 - Towns along Route 24 will meet every two years to discuss regional transportation priorities (in conjunction with MaineDOT biennial plan).

1. Ensure safe travel for all corridor users, including vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists

- *Strategy 4: Widen and lift dangerous railroad trestles in Topsham and Richmond*
 - Topsham and Richmond will contact MaineDOT's Rail program to begin the process of increasing width and clearance of Route 24 under railroad trestles, making the road safer for vehicle drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

2. Maintain the capacity of the corridor

- *Strategy 1: Use access management and other tools to manage development impacts on the corridor*
 - Towns along Route 24 will explore using site plan review and other tools such as limiting access points, impact fees, and acceleration/deceleration lanes as appropriate to help maintain the capacity of the road and prevent unnecessary congestion.

3. Provide coordinated signage and marketing

- *Strategy 1: Improve regional and local signage*
 - Towns along Route 24 will support Harpswell's legislative efforts to change signs along I-295.
 - MaineDOT will encourage traffic to use appropriate roads, ie, regional and through traffic use Route 196, and local traffic use Main Street and Route 24, with appropriate signage.
 - MaineDOT will maintain existing Route 24 road signs, ensuring their long-term legibility and providing a clear process by which towns can request sign replacements.
 - Towns along Route 24 will work together to establish a shared format for regional wayfinding signs, including color, font, and logo.

3. Provide coordinated signage and marketing

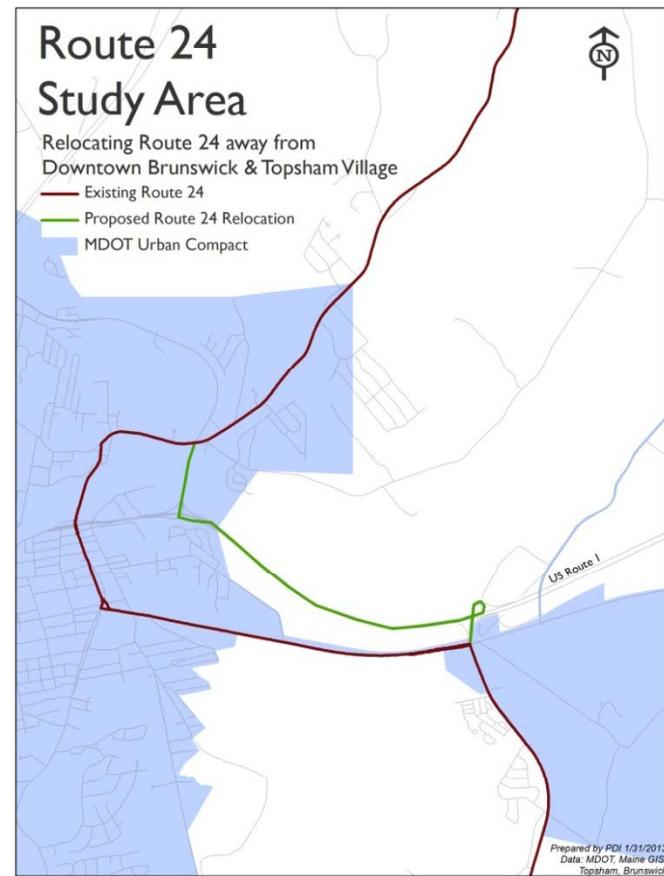
- *Strategy 2: Capitalize on ocean and water views as assets with value to tourism marketing*
 - Towns along Route 24 will work together to promote common tourism efforts.
 - Towns along Route 24 will work with Chambers of Commerce and business associations on existing marketing efforts for the Route 24 area– including Allure of the Coast and Maine Invites You.
 - Towns along Route 24 will work together to create a common assets map that can be distributed to tourism and travel organizations, building on the draft created for this plan.
 - Towns along Route 24 will consider pursuing a Scenic Byway designation for the road.

4. Address storm surge inundation, particularly with regard to emergency routes

- *Strategy 1: Identify and respond to inundation threats to emergency routes*
 - MaineDOT will consider the impact of storm surge flooding on when making Route 24 road improvements, using models that show future inundation levels.

5. Re-route Route 24 out of the downtowns of Brunswick and Topsham to remedy high traffic impacts.

- *Strategy 1: Re-route the corridor out of downtown and historic Brunswick and Topsham*
 - The towns of Topsham and Brunswick will undertake the public process necessary to start re-routing Route 24.
 - The towns of Topsham and Brunswick, working with MaineDOT, will fill in bicycle and pedestrian path gaps from Midcoast Hospital to Brunswick Landing.





QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
