



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

David Bernhardt
COMMISSIONER

May 30, 2011

Ms. Laurie Smith, Town Manager
Wiscasset Town Office
51 Bath Road
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Re: Modified Proposal to Hire Reserve Police Officers to Improve Route 1 Traffic Flows

Dear Ms. Smith:

This 2011 summer traffic management plan proposal supersedes a proposal discussed at the May 17 Wiscasset Board of Selectmen meeting. It is offered in response to comments received at that meeting and a subsequent May 23 meeting with you, Wiscasset police, business owners and others to refine the concept and its details. In order to allow time to coordinate this proposal, MaineDOT requests approval or approval with modifications of this recommended plan by the Board of Selectmen at their June 7 meeting as described below. The data and other materials provided in the earlier proposal still pertain and should be referenced for additional background information.

- 1 Utilize two Wiscasset and/or Lincoln County Sheriff's Department reserve officers to manage traffic along US Route 1/Main Street in Wiscasset between Water Street and Middle Street, and possibly including Federal Street. The main purpose is to better manage pedestrian crossings and side street traffic to improve vehicular throughput along Main Street such that the most vehicles possible are allowed to pass during peak traffic conditions without unduly restricting pedestrian access.
- 2 The two reserve police officer positions will work a seven-day-per-week, four-week period beginning Sunday July 17 through Sunday August 14. This four-week period has been shown over the past two summers to be the time when the most vehicle delays occur. Work hours will be from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM every day with the two officers at their positions at all times. Please note replacements will be needed for lunch and other breaks. I have added 2 hours per day to account for these breaks for budget purposes but this is subject to the board of Selectmen's determination.
- 3 MaineDOT staff will take traffic counts at Water Street in both directions from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday, July 15 before the officers are stationed and again from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday, August 5 with police present. The purpose of these two traffic counts is to determine the vehicle throughput (capacity) with and without police officer presence, thus providing a measure of the effectiveness of utilizing uniformed police to manage traffic during peak periods.



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- 4 A brief report will be provided comparing traffic flows with and without uniformed police officer presence and if appropriate recommendations will be made for further actions or strategies to consider There is no commitment to continuing this plan by either party at this time, though the results could yield new approaches to traffic management
- 5 Based on the \$15 00 per hour labor rate provided by Ms Smith (which yields a rate of \$16 50 fully burdened), the total estimated cost breakdown excluding the cost of filling in for reserve officers when they are on lunch and other breaks is as follows
 - 2 reserve officers for 28 days at 10 hours/day and \$16 50 per hour = \$9,240 00
 - Minus 50% MaineDOT cost share = -\$4,620 00
 - Minus Mr E Davies Allen contribution = -\$2,000 00
 - MaineDOT traffic counts, report and administrative costs = \$ 0 00
 - Resulting Cost to Town of Wiscasset = \$2,620 00

I look forward to discussing this proposal with you and the Board of Selectmen so we may reach an agreement to test the effectiveness of utilizing uniformed police officers for traffic management this summer This effort will allow us to state with confidence whether using uniformed officers can measurably improve traffic flows Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information prior to the meeting

Very truly yours,



Gerry Audibert, P E
Study Manager