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5	Second Public Meeting on the Scoping
6	And Development of an Environmental Assessment for the
7	Calais Ferry Point Land Port of Entry Modernization Project
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10	THE MAINE INDIAN EDUCATION CENTER
11	39 UNION STREET
12	CALAIS, MAINE 04619
13	THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024
14	5:00
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16	Taken before Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary
17	Public in and for the State of Maine, on Thursday, April 25,
18	2024, at the offices of the Maine Indian Education Center,
19	39 Union Street, Calais, Maine, commencing at 5:20 p.m.
20	pursuant to notice given.
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22	DON THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES
23	COURT REPORTING
24	dtreport@myottmail.com
25	207-394-3900

1	Appearances						
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3	MISSY MERTZ	General Services Administration					
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5	LI WANG	General Services Administration					
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7	SARA MASSARELLO	General Services Administration					
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9	ERIK SCHILLER	General Services Administration					
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11	ADRIENE DELOZIER	JMT Planning and Natural Resources					
12 13	MINIA CHIZILI A	TME Dianaina and Natural Dagarras					
13	TINA SEKULA	JMT Planning and Natural Resources					
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MS. MERTZ: Welcome everyone to our second Land Port of Entry, Calais Ferry Point scoping meeting.

I'm Missy Mertz. I'm with General Services

Administration. I am the National Environmental

Policy Act, Program Manager for this project. Thank you all for coming. First of all I'd like to give a shout out to the Maine Indian Education Center.

They've hosted us twice and we really appreciate it; and the city itself who have given us a lot of support in being able to reach out to all of you and get our information out so you can all attend the meeting tonight, so thanks for being here.

This is the part of the agenda where we do a power point. We won't be very long. We're just going to go through a couple of points.

So, why we're here again -- and, feel free to ask any questions as we go along -- and we'll give you a brief overview of what the National Environmental Policy Act does and we'll follow that with your comments again. And, once we're done with our presentation we'll have a lot of time for questions or comments or time to look at any of the posters in the back or talk to us one on one if you want to do that.

Quick introduction. Again, I'm Missy Mertz

with GSA. We have Sara Massarello in the back there with GSA who is our reality specialist. We have Li Wang our project manager. We have Adriene and Tina from JMT who are the contractors who are supporting us here tonight.

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So what's the purpose of this meeting. As I said, it is a scoping meeting. We're really here to listen and get your comments tonight. So this is our way of doing early public involvement so that we understand the issues that are important to the community and to address those in our environmental assessment. We want the public's input. So today during this presentation we'll give you a quick project update so you understand why we're here again. We'll describe the process. We'll give you the next steps in our process and then provide you with information on how to make public comments.

What's the purpose and need for this project.

So, right now we're looking to modernize the Calais Ferry Land Point of Entry in order to improve operational efficiency for our partner CBP and also to assist cross boarder travelers. This facility can no longer accommodate CBP's need (inaudible). The deficiencies of the current land port of entry follows 2 broad categories. It has some limited

capacity and also the building's condition.

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Some of you I recognize from last time. were here back in June for our first public scoping meeting right here. And, just to cover some of the comments that we know we received last time, broadly, we received some environmental concerns over water quality, travel and circulation comments, some hazardous materials comments and then some general requests for additional information. If you have similar comments to the ones you made last time, please feel free to make them again. Also know that you don't have to make them again. comments that were made during the first round are still very applicable and we still will address them in the document as we work to get it finalized now. I'm going to pass it over to Li to talk about the project. Thank you.

MR. WANG: When we were here last June we were looking -- (inaudible).

So, I was starting to say that we -- since 2023, really, from then until now we've been working with our partners CBP and the directors which is great. We've been working really closely with CBP to really look at their program needs and what their growth is telling us against -- architecturally --

how it will work. And, what we've discovered is that the 2023 study area really confined us. It really couldn't allow us to fully reach the maximum capability or the desired outcomes that our customer, our partners, are looking to achieve. So, therefore, we show the 2024 study area to demonstrate that we've expanded that which afforded us additional area of study to really architecturally see if we can develop a plan that will allow this port to extend to the program that CBP is seeking. So that's the major difference I wanted to explain and I think that's the crux of why we're here today.

And this is just a simple graphic. We show this here because we want to, once again, demonstrate our commitment of preserving the historical nature of this building. The Director is passionate about that and we appreciate that. And, I mentioned this because with our analysis of the new CBP technology we're looking to have a little bit more visibility of this historic port at the end of the day. Meaning, we're looking at that canopy and we're looking to address that as we develop this project more.

My final slide to present to you is just a

1 simple schedule. So you can see currently we 2 started design last spring around the same time we 3 were here last. We're, roughly, a year into it. 4 We're learning quite a lot, so we still have about two-thirds to go more or less. And, our 5 6 construction schedule right now is that we're 7 starting in the fall of 2025 completing in the winter of 2029. One thing to highlight here which 8 is important which is great news for us is that this 9 10 project now has been provided an incentive on the 11 IRA -- I'm going to read that to make sure I read 12 that correctly for you. Inflation Reduction Act. 13 And you might have heard of that acronym as IRA and what that is is the White House's incentive to 14 15 (inaudible) all of our projects under the bipartisan 16 infrastructure program to purchase low carbon 17 materials such as asphalt, concrete, glass and 18 steel. So that is great news for us. We are 19 excited for that. We're just starting to understand 20 what that means for our project, so that's some 21 quick updates for you. So that's my piece. Thank 22 you.

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MS. SEKULA: At this time we're going to talk about the NEPA Process and, again, NEPA stands the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA is a

federal agencies such a GSA to evaluate how the proposed project will affect both humans and the natural environment. Public involvement is an important part of the NEPA process because it helps GSA in the decision making. Tonight we'll be listening to your questions, comments and concerns. The overall goal of NEPA is to inform both the decision makers and the public of potential impacts from the project before a decision is made.

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So what you see here is a very brief timeline of the environmental assessment. So the NEPA process starts at scoping. Scoping is where we collect information on the project and the site. identify stakeholders and perform resource surveys. As we collect data we also collect public input. The public scoping period is where we are now in the process. You can it with the star. The next step is to prepare a draft environmental assessment and this document will assess the different alternatives and evaluate their impact. After the draft environmental assessment is complete we'll engage the public again for comment. It's important to note here that there are several opportunities during the NEPA process for public comment. After the second public comment opportunity we'll prepare

the final environmental assessment and decision document that will identify the preferred alternative.

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So here you can see some of the topics that will be covered under the Environmental Assessment; climate change, socioeconomics, noise, cultural resources, biological resources, water resources, utilities, traffic and public transportation as well as floodplain.

Now to go a little bit more in depth about some of the resources. The existing Land Port of Entry building is identified as a historic resource and is listed on the national register as historic places. So, as a result, NEPA filed a Section 106 process of NEPA and that process requires GSA to consider the effects of the project on historic properties. you can see here a list of steps that we need to follow as we need to initiate the Section 106 process, establish what's called an area of potential effects and identify the historic resources within that area of the potential effects and then the potential effects of the identified historic resources are evaluated. And then if there's potential adverse effects GSA will explore methods to avoid, minimize or mitigate those

effects, so we will be coordinating with the Maine State Historic Preservation office during this process.

Another affected resource is floodplains. So, if you look at our map the project area is located within both the 100 and 500 year floodplain. It's an executive order that requires federal agencies to avoid and/or minimize development in the floodplains, so GSA is required to attempt to locate all the structures in the floodplain, and so, that will be evaluated in the environmental assessment.

And then I'll pass it back over to Li.

MR. WANG: So I'll simply discuss the point on this slide here. As I stated earlier, we're looking at expanding your study area which, of course, (inaudible) potential acquisition of the land and these are some of the causes that we've identified. First of all, the gas station on the west side. Second is this continuance of Custom Street, realignment of Main Street and finally intermittent temporary closure to LPOE during the winter off peak hours may be necessary during construction. I'll touch on it -- I'll add a little bit more color to the last point. So, we -- as I stated earlier, we're working very closely with our customer agency,

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with CBP, and we're really looking to understand how we could help facilitate the construction side of The IRA funding does come into play and we're trying to expedite our process a little bit. we've been having active dialogue between the 2 agencies to understand what CBP could foresee closure periods or timeframes during construction which would help overall shorten the construction process. We're evaluating that. I think overall both agencies are working very closely to control the budget, control the schedule, do all those wonderful things so they can expedite the construction. So, the construction phase is pretty prolonged and because we do have the historical element and that piece of it is one we're capturing on the scope. So, again, there's active involvement and collaboration between the agencies to look at this really closely at those levels.

MS. SEKULA: So in terms of the presentation we're at our conclusion. We'll go into the public comment part of the evening. So first I'll talk about the 3 different ways that you can submit your public comment. First, in person here tonight. We have a stenographer to receive and record all comments, as well as, all comment forms are in the

back. You can also send an e-mail. The e-mail address is right there:

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Calaisferrypoint.lpoe@gsa.gov. And if you could put calaisferrypointlpoe in the subject line that would be great. Or you can also mail in your comment using the comment form. If you flip it over it will have the address where it needs to go and also up here on the screen your comments will go directly to Just to mention that comments must be submitted by May 31st. As we're collecting comments if anybody wants to verbally give a comment we just have a couple of rules per se. So we have a microphone up here in order to record your comment. When you are commenting please say and spell your first and last name at the start of your comment. Obviously, please remain quiet while others are speaking. And, we're going to hold verbal comments for about a 2 minute limit so we can make sure everybody has time to talk. And if time allows participants may be permitted to speak again after all commenter's have had the opportunity to speak and additional comments can also be submitted in writing using the comment form. Just to let you know, a recording of this meeting will be made available as well as the comments will be included

in the administrative record. So at this point I'd like to ask if anybody has a comment that they would like to be included. If you just raise your hand Adriene will come around with the microphone.

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AUDIENCE: My name is Bill Kilby, K-I-L-B-Y. I'm the store manager for the 2 Citgo Stations down by the Duty Free Americas. I'm concerned about the border closures, the hours for the border closures. The large percentage -- 80 to 90 percent of our business is Canadian. We rely on the local Canadians and the locals who use this bridge. bridge location is used more than any other bridge. That's a concern. Also, note for the record that on your outline that it goes to the other side of street on the 40 Main Street side and that's going to have an effect on the entrance in and out of our parking lot. See how the line comes up on our side of the street. That's about halfway up our parking lot. Is that going to remain open or is that going to be closed off by some means.

MR. WANG: Well, I'll answer the first question. I can take this one and I have the PDs here. The closure is -- it's just a consideration. We have not formulated or received direction from CBP on the period timeframe. We've got an

indication from them that they're allowing temporary winter closures off-peak hours. I can state for this group. And, I say that because they recognize -- as you are stating -- the importance of the connectivity this port has to the other side because this is a heavily used port. We get a lot of cross-border traffic, so we're really looking for some help in collaborating with CBP to see if that's even feasible, but right now I can say that they're looking at that and investigating it, but your feedback is very important. I can say I'm not surprised by hearing that from you, so I'll take that to my discussions.

And, your second question is about access. Our initial master plan 100 percent accommodates access to your store. We are working very closely with the designers to ensure that at the end of the day we're not disturbing your business flow or we're maintaining the efficiencies that you currently have and at the same time we're also respecting customer's to improve their flow, so balancing all of those things; so it's a long road, but we -- this is great. Thank you for coming. We will start to -- when we get to that point we can start some dialogue you with.

MS. MASSARELLO: Any other comments, questions, concerns? Bill, you're talking about this area here, right?

BILL: Yes.

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MS. MASSARELLO: We want to understand, like, how folks -- if you do live in the area, if you frequent the area, using the gas station on the other side, going up and down Main Street or Custom Street and how the traffic flow works. If anyone lives on Whitney if you have any concerns about how you might be impacted if we close a portion of Custom Street or close the entire street or how that will impact businesses.

MS. MERTZ: I think that concludes our recording. Please feel free to ask any questions. And even though it won't be on the record we can still record it through the comment form.

MR. WANG: Feel free to come up if you have other questions that you may have.

MS. MERTZ: And if anybody wants to leave a comment with the stenographer you're also welcome to do that anonymously if you didn't want your name associated with it for any reason. That's also allowed. So, thank you.

(This public meeting concluded at 5:40 p.m. this date.)

CERTIFICATE I, Karen A Dube-Harriman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on Thursday, April 25, 2024, personally appeared before me: LI WANG, MISSY MERTZ, SARA MASSARELLO and TINA SEKULA, in the aforementioned cause of action: SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR CALAIS FERRY POINT LAND PORT OF ENTRY, and the foregoing, as reduced to stenotype, is a true and accurate record of the evidence as taken by me by means of stenotype. I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the aforementioned cause. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and seal in Readfield, Maine, this 15th day of May, 2024. Karen A Dube-Harriman, Notary Public My Commission Expires, May 19, 2025

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