



Transit Committee Meeting

October 23rd, 2024

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Agenda

1) Call to Order

2) Public Comment

Members of the public in attendance of today's meeting have an opportunity to provide public comment on today's agenda items.

3) Approval of July 10th, 2024 Transit Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

4) Ridership Report - FY24 (Year End) and FY25 (Q1)

Laurie Linscott will provide a brief overview of the ridership report.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

5) Financial Update

Community Connector/City of Bangor will update the committee on FY24 Year End financials.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

6) Service Updates

Community Connector/City of Bangor will provide brief service updates, including Saturday Service, Election Day plans, and Winter Maintenance.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

7) Project Update

Community Connector/City of Bangor will provide a brief overview of the following ongoing projects: 1) Bus Technology, 2) Bus Stop Project, 3) New Trolley, 4) Cold Bus Barn, and 5) Bus Stop Ordinance.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

8) BACTS 2024-2025 UPWP FTA Studies

Maddie Jensen will review the current schedule and budget for FTA studies and propose an adjustment to better accommodate data availability, staff capacity, and information needs.

Proposed Action: Recommend a UPWP Amendment to the BACTS Policy Committee to defer the Comprehensive Customer and Service Analysis study to 2026-2027.

9) Rural, Intercity, and Commuter Transit Provider Updates

Any transit provider in attendance will provide an update on services, initiatives, and/or projects.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

10) Municipal Partner Updates

Members will provide updates on any initiatives or projects in the region which may affect transit.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

11) MaineDOT Update

MaineDOT staff will provide an update on any MaineDOT projects, policies, or plans.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

12) Other Business

Discussion of other items not on today's agenda.

13) Upcoming Meeting

Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule:

- January 8th, 2-3:30pm (VIRTUAL)
- April 9th, 2-3:30pm (HYBRID)
- July 9th, 2-3:30pm (VIRTUAL)
- October 8th, 2-3:30pm (VIRTUAL)

14) Adjournment



Attachment A
July 10th, 2024
2:00 PM - Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Committee Members	Affiliation
Linda Johns	Brewer
Laurie Linscott Sherri Clark	Community Connector
Mitch Stone	Orono
Amy Ryder	Hampden
Mark Leonard	Veazie
Courtney O'Donnell John Theriault David Little	Bangor
William Biberstein	University of Maine
Jack McKay	Rider Representative
BACTS	
Madeline Jensen	
Other Attendees	
Kirstie Hostetter (Federal Transit Administration) Paige Melius (Federal Highway Administration) Ryan Neale (MDOT) Eric Willett (Penquis) Steve Santiago (TFA) Dan Dixon (UMaine)	

1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

2) Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3) Approval of April 17th, 2024 Transit Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Linda Johns asked if there were any comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. John Theriault made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mitch Stone seconded the motion. None were opposed and the minutes were accepted as written.

4) Ridership Report

Laurie Linscott shared the FY24 year end ridership report. Ridership figures are steadily increasing post-Covid once again surpassing half a million. Ridership has not yet reached levels prior to Covid

which was at around seven hundred thousand but with continued growth this will be the next milestone with the larger mission being to reach or surpass peak ridership numbers.

5) Financial Update

Laurie Linscott shared financial reports for Quarter 3 of FY24 including capital, operating, local match, etc. Laurie Linscott also provided an update on the current financial standing of multiple projects in progress this year. Everything is trending relatively as expected.

6) Transit Committee Rider Representative Appointment

Jack McKay's two year term as Rider Representative is up. A call was made for individuals interested in holding the position for the next two year term. Jack McKay volunteered for another two year term and no other volunteers came forward. Mark Leonard made a motion to approve Jack McKay as the rider representative for the next two years and John Theriault seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Proposed Action: *Appoint a Transit Committee Rider Representative (Term: July 2024-July 2026)*

7) Transit Committee Chair & Vice Chair Elections

The committee terms for Karen Fussell (Chair) and Linda Johns (Vice Chair) are up. The results of the poll indicated a preference for maintaining the structure of the committee. Two partners were willing to facilitate the committee as Chair and Vice Chair. Karen Fussell and Amy Ryder put their names forward and a motion was made by Mark Leonard to establish Amy Ryder as Chair, and Karen Fussell as Vice Chair. Mitch Stone seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Proposed Action: *Nominate and Elect a Chair and Vice Chair of the Transit Committee (Term: July 2024-July 2026)*

8) Project and Service Updates

Courtney O'Donnell and Laurie Linscott presented updates on the Bus Stops Designation and Transit Technologies projects as well as an update on the status of the cold bus barn. Progress on transit technologies and Bus Stops Designation is proceeding smoothly. Flagging down buses will continue to the end of 2024 and starting in 2025 Community Connector buses will only stop at designated bus stops. A community connector app is still in progress and has not yet been released to the public. Bangor has received proposals for the architectural design work on the cold bus barn and a scoring committee will be put together to review them. The cold bus barn site will require refurbishment to maintain general upkeep and provide infrastructure for future EV buses. This upkeep will be funded by successfully obtained grant money.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

9) Rural, Intercity, and Commuter Transit Provider Updates

Eric Willett with Penquis Transportation provided an update about Penquis' lawsuit against the State for providing a statewide medicaid contract for non-emergency transportation services to Modivcare. If Penquis is unable to regain the contract then their hope is to work more directly with local communities and Community Connector to help fill transportation gaps Eric asked that any communities reach out to them with ideas or needs in this regard.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

10) Municipal Partner Updates

Amy Ryder from the Town of Hampden updated the committee of a major infrastructure project about to occur on route 1A which may cause interruptions to Community Connector's Hampden Route. No exact date has been established but it is expected to start in August.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

11) MaineDOT Update

Ryan Neale at MaineDOT provided an update on two grant opportunities from the FTA that were applied for by MaineDOT on behalf of eight transit organizations including four for the bus and bus facilities grants and four for the low and zero transit vehicles grants. MaineDOT did receive the full bus and bus facilities grant which Bangor did not apply for this year. They did not receive any money on the low and zero transit vehicles grants which Community Connector had applied for. Ryan said they will try again on their behalf for the next round of grants next year.

Proposed Action: *For discussion only*

12) Other Business

John Theriault will be leaving the City of Bangor so will no longer participate in this committee. He will be starting a new role at MaineDOT.

13) Upcoming Meeting

October 9th, 2024 at 2pm.

14) Adjournment

Amy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45pm. Courtney seconded.