



Transit Committee Meeting

February 26th, 2025

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 October 23rd, 2024 Transit Committee Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

4) Financial Update

Community Connector/City of Bangor will update the committee on FY24 Year End and FY25 Q1 financials. Staff will also provide a high level estimate for the upcoming budget cycle, including details about the additional Transit Center FTA match.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

5) Fare Structure Analysis Introduction

Foursquare ITP will present an introduction to the Fare Structure Analysis project, including the goals, schedule, tasks, and deliverables.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

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

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

Proposed Action: For discussion only

7) Community Connector Marketing/Branding Study

BACTS will update the Committee about organizational changes which will impact the Marketing/Branding Study which was scheduled for 2025.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

8) Service and Project Updates

Community Connector/City of Bangor will provide any relevant service and project updates, including staffing, Bus Technology, Bus Stop Project and Winter Maintenance, and Cold Bus Barn.

Proposed Action: For discussion only

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

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

14) Adjournment



Attachment A
October 23rd, 2024
2:00 PM - Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Committee Members	Affiliation
Karen Fussell Linda Johns	Brewer
Laurie Linscott	Community Connector
Mitch Stone	Orono
Amy Ryder	Hampden
Courtney O'Donnell Jefferson Davis	Bangor
Jack McKay	Rider Representative
BACTS	
Maddie Jensen	
Other Attendees	
Ryan Neale (MDOT) Steve Santiago (TFA)	

1) Call to Order

2) Public Comment

Steve Santiago from Transportation For All provided a comment requesting that Saturday service be restored and that drivers be given more opportunities for full time positions.

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

Amy Ryder asked if there were any comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. Courtney O'Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes, and Karen Fussell seconded the motion. None were opposed and the minutes were accepted as written.

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

No ridership report was available for review at the time of the meeting. Agenda item skipped.

5) Financial Update

No financial reports were available for review at the time of the meeting. Agenda item skipped.

6) Service Updates

Laurie Linscott spoke to the recent cancellation of Saturday service due to a driver shortage. The City acknowledges the need for Saturday service to resume as quickly as possible so they are diligently working to find solutions. Community Connector is providing free fare on November 5th for the election and will be stopping directly at every voting poll. The City is working with Centerline and Labor ready to provide system wide winter maintenance of bus stops and shelters. The City has

also recently applied for funding from MDOT, if successful the funding will support another CDL instructor and CDL driver school to support the driver shortage.

7) Project Update

Laurie Linscott provided the following project updates:

- 1) **Bus Technology:** The contract with Passio is still underway. Community Connector is looking forward to upcoming staff training for the technology and a soft launch of the app in the next few months. Audio and visual stop announcements have been implemented on the buses making all routes ADA compliant.
- 2) **Bus Stop Project:** All new signs have been installed except for a small section of Old Town which is undergoing construction. Drivers and riders are beginning to utilize these stops or boarding and deboarding. Flag stops are still being allowed during this transition period.
- 3) **New Trolley:** Community Connector has received two trolleys which they plan to use for promotional events. One trolley is painted and ready to be used. Communities should reach out to Laurie Linscott to request the trolley for future community events.
- 4) **Cold Bus Barn:** Artifex Architects and Engineers has been selected to conduct the Cold Bus Barn Rehab project. A kickoff meeting has been scheduled for November.
- 5) **Bus Stop Ordinance:** The City of Bangor is working to update their ordinance to ensure the new stops remain clear and accessible to the bus. This may be a good time for the other communities to review or create their own bus stop ordinances if they anticipate any issues with enforcement. A micro-mobility policy has been created to outline allowable uses of other modes on the bus and share user information for the new bus bike racks. Finally, the City is reviewing their marketing policy for updates.

8) BACTS 2024-2025 UPWP FTA Studies

Maddie Jensen provided an update that BACTS just received a proposal for the Fare Structure Analysis. Pending a few final budget/scope adjustments to expand outreach efforts, they should be able to kick off the study shortly. The next study planned for this funding period is the Community Connector Brand Recognition/Marketing study, which the committee previously discussed adjusting to align with a Penobscot Climate Action Plan toolkit recommendation. Finally, the Comprehensive Customer and Service Analysis was meant to utilize the data collected through the new Community Connector bus technology. As that has been delayed, BACTS recommends deferring this study until the next UPWP cycle (2026-2027) when the technology has been implemented and allowed to collect data for some period of time. Funding for that study can be reallocated to the other two studies to fill budget gaps due to scope adjustments. Karen Fussell made a motion to recommend a UPWP Amendment to the BACTS Policy Committee to defer the Comprehensive Customer and Service Analysis study to 2026-2027. Linda Johns seconded the motion.

9) Rural, Intercity, and Commuter Transit Provider Updates

No rural, intercity, and commuter transit provider updates.

10) Municipal Partner Updates

No municipal partner updates.

11) MaineDOT Update

Ryan Neale from MaineDOT provided additional information about the funding that Community Connector applied for to support CDL training courses. They will be evaluating all proposals in mid November.

12) Other Business

Funding partners requested that the City of Bangor provide a high level estimate of the upcoming year's Community Connector budget during the January meeting to assist with their own budget development.

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

Karen Fussell made a motion to adjourn. Courtney O'Donnell seconded.