

MAINE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION



Minutes of Wednesday, August 21, 2024 via Zoom

Members Present:

Tom Reinauer, YCCAC, President
Mike Tremblay, Greater Portland Metro, Clerk
Kirk Bellavance, KVCAP
Sandy Buchanan, WMTA
Jack DeBeradinis, Don Libby, RTP
Andrew Clark, GPCOG
Marsha Bennett, WMTS
Stephanie Farrar, PenquisCAP
Terry Bickford, Downeast Community Partners
Laurie Linscott, City of Bangor
Stephanie Carver, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission
Dean Williams, SMPDC/KACTS
Larry Allen, ATRC/Citylink
Maddie Jensen, BACTS
Jamie Parsons, Waldo Community Action Partners (Mid-Coast Connector)
Stephanie Farrar, Penquis CAP
Glenn Fenton, Greater Portland Metro (non-voting)

Others Present: Ryan Neale, Kelly Arata, Karla Chase, MaineDOT; Rick Szilagyi, Lexian Management; Carol Schweiger, Schweiger Consulting, Bill Ferdinand, Eaton Peabody

1. Call to Order/Introductions:

President Tom Reinauer called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes of the June 2024 MTA Members Meeting were approved unanimously of those present.

3. Results of Transit Technology Initiatives (Carol Schweiger):

Carol Schweiger of Schweiger Consulting presented her findings and recommendations for transit technology initiatives, including GTFS-Flex Integration into Agile Mile Trip Planner, Transit Fare Payment, and Computer Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Locator (CAD/AVL) systems. Carol provided recommendations on each technology initiative for statewide adoption. Carol's presentation and slides are attached to these minutes.

4. MaineDOT Updates

Ryan Neale provided updates from the FTA. MaineDOT was awarded just over \$3 million for its combined request for Bus and bus Facilities; however, did not receive funding for its Low and No Emissions grant request. Planning a debrief with FTA, but the Low/No grant is very competitive.

Ryan also discussed GTFS Flex consulting services, which MaineDOT will proceed on with AECOM.

Finally, Ryan discussed the Lewiston/Auburn to Portland bus service (the LAP). Start of service has had some hiccups. About 500 rides in the first two weeks. Additional signage, payment options, real-time tracking, etc. are being worked on.

5. Updates from Lexian Management

Rick Szilagyi provided an update on the MTA website, mainetransit.org, and noted that he is working on a meeting on the tri-state conference.

6. MTA officers and subcommittees

Erin Bingham has moved on to a new role, so there is a vacancy in the Vice President position. This position will remain vacant until October, when new officers are typically elected. Tom provided an update on subcommittee meetings.

7. Financial update

Tom Reinauer provided a brief update on financials. He noted that Eaton Peabody has requested a 10% increase for each year. The Executive Committee will work with Eaton Peabody on details for eventual approval by the MTA.

8. 2025 Tri-State Transit Conference

The tri-state conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Portland, with an evening boat trip already booked. Programming for panels will proceed in the next few months.

9. Legislative Update

Bill Ferdinand provided a brief legislative update. While we are between legislative sessions, Bill suggests that transit agencies advocate on behalf of ourselves, pushing for more support from the State House. He suggests we speak up and ask for what we need in order to meet Maine's own stated transit-related goals in Maine Won't Wait, Maine's climate action plan. Tom notes that the state has already pulled back some promised operating funding and has repurposed it for discretionary projects, which will be difficult to access for some smaller agencies. Bill reiterates that operating funding is key, especially with federal COVID-era funding going away.

10. Information Sharing

No members provided any additional information.

11. Upcoming Membership Meeting: October 16, 2024 at 9:00am

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32 am: No Motion needed