



**10-Year Statewide Strategic Plan Implementation
Workflow updates for Steering Committee
March 23, 2021**

People - Implementation Steering Committee and Work Group Members, Collaborating Networks:

Steering Committee Additions and Changes since last meeting:

Changes – Nina Fisher (MDOT) stepping off, Jennifer Brickett (MDOT) stepping on

Additions – Charlene Virgilio (Four Directions Development Corporation), Carlos Mello (FAME)

Work Group leads:

Additions/confirmations and Adjustments:

subleads within Supportive Infrastructure

- **Transportation and Transit** – Jennifer Brickett (additional DOT team members to be added as co-leads)
- **Childcare** – Ana Hicks (GOPIF and Children’s Cabinet) and Keith Bisson (CEI)
- **Housing** – Denise Lord and Erik Jorgensen (Maine State Housing)

Work Group Structures:

Attracting Talent - stronger coordination with State Workforce Board subcommittees including newly formed Immigrant Workforce Subcommittee and existing subcommittees

Stable Business Environment – Action item F3 (energy costs) will be led by Climate Council (committed); Action item F4 (healthcare costs) will be led by DHHS (pending conversation but in line with current work)

Federal Delegation:

Briefed on FEMA process on March 2nd, added to invite lists for Steering Committee and open invite to work groups.

Identified To be done by March meeting:

Complete build out of Infrastructure teams with co-chair input - Incomplete

Strategic Plan network mapping process to determine unrepresented or under-represented networks – initial network building complete in partnership with USM/Maine Center for Business and Economic Research – *results provided in separate document for meeting*

- TBD – determine what information we want mapped and survey individuals
- TBD – build survey as we onboard collaborations and their respective networks

Process - Support Team Development and Stakeholder Engagement, Tactics and Mechanisms:

Support Team Development – using volunteer, student talent as part of process through VISTA and existing opportunities within educational institutions, continue to build out team using available publicly supported resources, building out contractual relationships where able.

AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Listings: Positions still unfilled (interviewed four candidates, offered three positions, no acceptances)

[Financial Resource Development Position](#)

[Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Position](#)

Maine Law Interns – one acceptance, will begin work with us this summer

Bowdoin Fellows program – three interviews, one offer, acceptance TBD

UMaine grad student intern – Taylor Cray, who interned with GOPIF last summer will intern with DECD, supporting the Attracting Talent/Welcome Home workstream, focused on rural areas

Pursuing Potential for Cooperative Agreement with UMaine System for partnership around specific areas of implementation – still in discussion on Scope of Work

Direct work with the Regional FEMA long term recovery team – FEMA Solutions-Based teams mirror or connect with Strategic Plan work groups – Innovation, Climate/Clean Energy (led by Climate Council), Workforce (Grow Local Talent/Attract New Talent), Broadband (led by Broadband Coalition), Marine Infrastructure (led by SEAMaine)

National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network – Maine was selected in the first cohort of the Workforce Innovation Network. We will receive technical assistance and grant support for the implementation of Strategy A.4 – Engaging today’s workers in continuing education to achieve credentials for career advancement.

External Stakeholder Engagement –

We have had multiple stakeholder engagements in the last month for updates and inputs to the Plan implementation

-Permanent Commission on Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Maine Tribal Populations – meeting with Commissioners on engagement with DECD and Strategic Plan – outcome will be to partner on community forum opportunities

-Alliance for Health and Prosperity

-Two Q&A webinars on the Request for Collaboration/Invitation to Collaborate – attended by 100 people

-EMDC CEDS process kick off

-State Workforce Board

-Maine Accelerates Growth

-Roux Institute team

-Maine Association of Non-Profits

-Downeast Innovation Network (focused on youth engagement and entrepreneurship)

-Maine Jobs Council

-Maine Downtown Center

-National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network

-Maine DBE service provider (MPTAC/EMDC)

Emerging Tactics –

Across multiple work-streams, several key tactics are emerging:

1. Better leverage existing collaborations and initiatives underway
2. State procurement innovations or changes
3. “Challenges”
4. Digital connection improvements
5. Communication and connection improvements
6. Use of intern talent as modeling

Communication Updates in Process:

- Updated DECD website to post meeting schedules and notes, as well as metrics around economic recovery (integration of CRED site tableau)
- Soft Launched Strategic Plan specific site for stakeholder engagement and storytelling – mainestrategicplan.com
 - In progress - build out of each strategy area with projects
 - In progress - build out of non-static “talent and innovation” pillars
- E-news mailing list development

- Accessing contract support for communication systems build out, given lag in VISTA volunteer **acquisition**

Request/Invitation to Collaborate Process: Updates under separate cover

Projects/Products

STRATEGY A

grow local talent

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- A1: Maine Career Exploration**
- A2: Web Portal matching students to opportunities**
- A3: Align Curriculums with digital economy skills**
- A4: Engage today’s workers in continuing education to obtain credentials of value**
- A5: Expand professional preparation for educators**
- A6: Improve quality of care in early childhood system**

Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group

A1: Internship development (at HS and young adult levels) – clean energy and for at-risk youth – GOPIF, Children’s Cabinet, Gov Energy Office – design phase & white paper; Clear Definitions of Various Options and then associated outreach via work group/DOE; Building on Maine C3 Leadership

A2: Onward Platform; Potential Build on Maine Career Compass; Revamp/relaunch of Jobslink (completed) and associated outreach efforts (underway)

A4: NGA Workforce Innovation Network alignment; Credential platform work currently underway via collaborative partners; DHHS/DOL collective work in pathways mapping

A2-A6: Mapping of existing programs/resources/partners via GLT workgroups

A6: Connecting to Children’s Cabinet for Action E1

STRATEGY B

attract new talent

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- B1: Increase the labor force participation of existing residents**
- B2: Governor’s Welcome Home program**
- B3: Expand and Simplify Opportunity Maine Tax Credit**
- B4: Help New Americans, veterans, and other newcomers get qualified to work in Maine**
- B5: Promote quality of place investments**
- B6: Support Learning**

Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group – B1 and B4 will move to closer alignment with SWB

B1: Procurement expansions and DBE certification drive

B2/ERC: Rethinking centralized approach; work group members collaborating to diversify current options and target specific demographics (veterans, BIPOC, rural)

B3, ERC: Opportunity Maine Tax Credit – MRS discussions with large employers underway, but Live & Work Maine promoting under contract with FAME currently

B4: legislation submitted – LD 149 – first step; ELL Child Development Associate Certification (Portland Adult Ed) – underway

B5: Quality of Place investments in social and community building infrastructure – sub workgroup not yet formed, lots of activity that can be brought into strategy; Coworking development – in budget and underway; Working Communities Challenge underway

STRATEGY C

promote innovation

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- C1: Increase R&D investment levels in Maine**
- C2: Raise the investment cap of the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program**
- C3: Revitalize the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board**
- C4: Promote domestic exports to strengthen the climate for startups**

Associated Projects Underway or Identified by Work Group

- C1:** Launch of Early Adopter Program by State – Q2 2021
- C2:** Completed 2020; ongoing evaluation of improvements
- C3/ERC:** Underway
- C4:** DECD Office of Business Development continues to build out [Domestic Trade assets](#) using [baseline study completed with key data & recommendations](#)
- ERC additions:** Innovation Data Dashboard (tracking mechanism) – **completed using USM partnership**
- ERC additions:** partner with MxG – MxG multiple work groups

STRATEGY D

ubiquitous connectivity

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- D1: Provide a loan guarantee program for financiers of broadband projects**
- D2: Continue to provide local planning grants in order to help increase take rates and make projects more feasible**
- D3: Provide a consistent, predictable, and robust annual level of ConnectME infrastructure grants**

Associated Projects Underway

- Strategy-wide:** Broadband Intelligence Platform/Mapping effort – The data analytics tool to support Connect Maine to obtain the needed tools to identify areas, costs of build, potential revenue streams (hence, what is the hole that state and federal funds are needed to fill), as well as lay out a plan for needed middle mile, and assist communities in their process of identifying what can be built in their area.
- Strategy-wide:** Broadband Coalition speed test
- D2:** continuous
- D3:** Bond funding projects underway

STRATEGY E

provide supporting infrastructure

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- E1: Set the bar high for childcare; aim to create a world-class system in Maine**
- E2: Establish an adequate and sustainable funding system for public transportation**
- E3: Expand the production of workforce housing in Maine**

Associated Projects Underway

Childcare:

- E1, ERC:** Strengthening and supporting the Child Care Subsidy Program (increased subsidies for infants and toddlers) underway
- E1, ERC:** CEI Child Care Business Lab underway
- E1:** Childrens' Cabinet plan execution underway

Transportation:

- E2:** UMaine/MDOT researching transportation models in other states
- ERC:** GPCOG Transit Tomorrow public transportation vision – adopted 2021
- E2:** GoMaine program plan to expand in 2022
- ERC:** Village Partnership Initiative – in development

Housing (catalog of affordable housing, not specifically workforce):

- ERC:** State Affordable Housing Tax Credit – enacted 2020, expanding 2021
- ERC:** UMaine composite lumber 3D printing project
- ERC:** Community Solutions Program – pilot
- ERC:** Tree Street Neighborhoods (Lewiston) - underway
- ERC:** Commission to increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions – bill introduced (LD 609)

STRATEGY F

maintain stable business environment

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- F1: Review and simplify the application/decision process and pipeline**
- F2: Create a web portal where applicants can track their applications**
- F3: Control and reduce energy costs**
- F4: Control Healthcare costs**

Associated Projects Underway

- F1:** DEP proposed LD 69 to reduce duplication of state and municipal permitting efforts; Workgroup members engaging with legislators and other stakeholders during legislative review of other bills related to DEP permitting thresholds and deadlines; Nonprofit partner (TNC) developing mapping tool for *pre-screening* of properties for high demand permitting projects, like renewable energy projects and manufacturing facilities; Solar energy Permit-by-Rule development (Q3 2021)
- F2:** DEP completing data system requirements gathering phase with contractor; DEP drafting Request for Information for estimates to develop online licensing datasystem, including potential for connectivity to statewide registration system. (Q2 2021)
- F3:** Procurement innovations around carbon footprint/climate costs and Maine-based businesses – under discussion
- F4:** Lower health care costs through establishment of Office of Affordable Health Care – bill introduced (LD 120)

STRATEGY G

promote hubs of excellence

PLAN ACTION ITEMS

G1: Communities to identify gaps for their hubs of excellence

G2: Identify areas of supply chain opportunity

Associated Projects Underway or Completed

G1: Northern Border Regional Commission – updated grant priorities align with strategic plan priorities