

Public Transit Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

June 10, 2026

2:00 – 3:30

Location: Zoom

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/89914732540>

Agenda Item	Responsibility	Action or Information
1) Call to Order & Quorum	Megan Hannan, Chair	Action
2) Approval of Previous Minutes (5 mins)	Megan Hannan, Chair	Action
Council Updates (30 mins)		
3) Guest Speakers Ross MacDonald, Vermont DOT Clayton Clark, Green Mountain Transit General Manager	Speakers	Information and Discussion
4) From the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schedule Check InOther Issues to Discuss?	Megan Hannan	Information and Discussion
5) Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">Steering CommitteeState of TransitMobility ManagementResearch and PolicyEquity	Committee Chairs	Information and Discussion
State Updates (30 mins)		
6) Maine Department of Transportation	MaineDOT Staff	Information and Discussion
7) Legislative / Transportation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">New Committee in 2027New Governor in 2027Talking Points, Outreach Plan	All	Information and Discussion
Council Business (30 mins)		

8) Discussion Items	Open	Discussion
9) Public Comment	Public	Information
10) New Business	Open	Discussion
11) Adjourn (90 mins total) Next Meeting: August 12, 2026	Megan Hannan, Chair	Action



Public Transit Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2026 – Held via Zoom

PTAC Members in attendance: Ryan Neale, Andrew Clark, Jessica Maurer, Aleta Rupert, Erin Zwirko, Megan Salvin, Donna Kelley, Jay Kamm, Kirk Bellavance, Dana Knapp, Catherine Kruglak, Tom Reinauer (vice chair), Zoe Miller, Steve Hoad, Josh Caldwell, Laurie Linscott, Megan Hannan (chair), Cheryl Harkins.

1. Call to Order and Quorum. Megan Hannan called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. It was determined that the quorum requirement was met.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes. Jessica Maurer moved to approve the February 11, 2026, meeting minutes as presented, and Kirk Bellavance seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Guest Speaker: Corrigan Salerno, Policy Manager, Transportation for America (T4A). Corrigan provided an overview of the recent Transportation for America report, World Class American Transit. See the attached slides for additional information. Key points from the presentation include:

- The three main principles the report is written around, and that guide T4A, are:
 - Safety over speed
 - Fix it first
 - Invest in the rest
- The report highlights the lack of spending on transit and rail versus the highway program (over \$9.6 trillion dollars since the passing of the Federal highway-aid act)
- Transit spending lags highway spending and states are picking up more of the transit spending tab
- There was a small bump in transit funding with the IIJA, but levels overall remained too low
- The report defines world-class transit, looking at peer cities like Barcelona, Montreal, Madrid, Singapore, and Stockholm from data provided by the International Association of Public Transport
- Due to the lack of funding, there was a slight decrease in transit buses on the road from 2014 to 2024
- Some modes, including rail and on-demand transit, saw a small increase in the number of vehicles
- World class transit is defined as 100 vehicles per 100k people, and looking at the entire metropolitan area, the peer cities highlighted averaged 130 vehicles per 100k people
- Currently, the U.S. averages 36 transit vehicles per 100k people for its largest cities, while the average is 27 transit vehicles per 100k people for urban areas 50k and larger
- On average, it costs \$30 million to construct for BRT, \$300 for light rail, \$450 million per mile of heavy rail, and \$200 million for commuter rail in 2024 dollars
- Transit funding would need to double by 2045, or triple where we are today for capital and operations costs
- The group reviewed the data tools on the T4A website with a focus on Portland metrics
- Portland has approximately 33 transit vehicles per 100k residents, above U.S. average
- Lewiston and Auburn also have higher rates of vehicles than the national average
- Portland would need to increase by 24%, or \$20.1M, beyond current level, from \$84.5M to \$104.9M in 2045 to achieve world class transit
- Data for the comparison analysis is derived from the National Transit Database
- Megan clarified that Portland does not have commuter rail



The Council asked questions and discussed the T4A report's relation to the Council's work. The report supports the PTAC's argument for additional funding for public transit. Funding for public transit has a positive return on investment. Bangor and Lewiston are on the list of most vehicles per 100k residents for small urban areas (50k – 100k residents). There is an ongoing and necessary cost of maintaining the nation's roadways. The 30% of the highway funding that is for expansion could be repurposed for transit. The nation already has a world class highway system. Achieving world class transit would require approximately a doubling of operating investment, a number which would increase with additional investment in vehicles and infrastructure. Investment in capital and operating are both important. The numbers of vehicles listed in the report represent vehicles in operation at peak service. The report focuses on urban areas and does not include information on rural areas. Follow-up questions can be addressed to Corrigan and/or Steve Davis at T4A; Corrigan will be leaving T4A on April 20.

4. Committee Updates.

Steering Committee:

- Chair: Megan Hannan
- Members:
 - Tom Reinauer
 - Ryan Neale
 - Erin Zwirko
- The committee will be monitoring Council meetings and presentations to inform future Council meetings and committee work.

State of Transportation Committee:

- Chair: Kirk Bellavance, Aleta Rupert
- Members:
 - Jay Kamm
 - Maddie Jensen
 - Sandy Buchanan
 - Kirk Bellavance
 - Cyr Martin
 - Catherine Kruglak
 - Aleta Rupert
- The committee's first meeting will be on May 6.

Research and Policy Committee:

- Chair: Andrew Clark
- Meeting Date: First Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- Members:
 - Thomas O'Boyle
 - Andrew Clark
 - Amanda Dioszeghy
 - Rep. Lydia Crafts
 - Michael Hallundbaek
 - Dean Williams
 - Josh Caldwell

Commented [RN1]: Note that Cyr has left his position at ARTS and is no longer on the Council. The seat he formerly occupied is vacant.

Commented [RN2]: Note that Michael Hallundbaek has been replaced by Donna Kelley on the Council



- The committee met for the first time last month. For the last Biennial Report, the committee reviewed policies for and allocations of state funding. The committee is reviewing presentations from the last report cycle. The group intends to identify 3-4 areas for additional research and will coordinate with the goals of the PTAC as a whole.

Equity Committee:

- Chair:
- Members:
 - Megan Salvin
 - Jess Maurer
 - Roz O'Reilly

Mobility Alternatives Committee:

- Chair: To be determined
- Meeting Date: Third Wednesday of every other month, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Members:
 - Cheryl Harkins
 - Jess Maurer
 - Duane Scott
 - Omolola Achuba
 - Zoe Miller
 - Katherine Freund
- There is a listening session in Westbrook on Saturday regarding the needs of the unhoused community that members of the committee will attend.

Report Writing Committee:

- Chair: Erin Zwirko
- Members:
 - Megan Hannan
 - Ryan Neale
 - Tom Reinauer
 - Erin Zwirko
- The committee met last week. Committees should be mindful of the timeline noted in the meeting packet as they are going about their work.

Equity Committee: The Council agreed that the Equity Committee will ensure that equity issues are addressed in the work of the other committees, particularly as the 2027 Biennial Report comes together.

5. MaineDOT Update. The GO MAINE RFP is on the MaineDOT website. A date of April 24 was posted for additional guidance on the technical requirements of the RFP after consultation from Maine OIT.

6. DHHS Update. Council member Roger Bondeson of DHHS was not present for this meeting.

7. Legislative/Transportation Committee

- LD 1451 – The Working Group has been meeting since November. Consultants AECOM and RLS are working on memos on mobility management and cost allocation. These are due for public and stakeholder comment in September and to the Transportation Committee in November. The outcome is intended to be an action plan for Maine. There may be an opportunity to review the draft at a PTAC meeting and/or have members of both committees make those connections.



- LD 2062 has passed out of the House and Senate and is on the appropriations table with an outcome to be decided next week.
- The Maine Transit Association is working with the Maine Office of Community Affairs to include transit and other transportation infrastructure issues in community planning.
- LD 1804 on transportation funding did not pass. The Council should be proactive in communicating transit needs to the next Governor in the transportation funding bill.

8. Discussion Items. There were no additional discussion items.

9. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

10. New Business.

- The Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging is hosting an event on the future of aging next week. Several Council members expressed interest in attending.
- The annual Build Maine conference is in Skowhegan June 2 and 3 and represents an opportunity for transit to be included in community planning discussions.

11. Future Agenda Items

- The inclusion of transit planning in community and transportation planning, such as the discussions in the Augusta region
- Vermont's infrastructure and innovation in public transportation
- A discussion with the Maine Office of Community Affairs to include transit in building/construction proposals
- The University of Southern Maine Aging and Disability program's efforts with Jess Mauer and the Maine Council on Aging in regard to transportation
- The National Campaign for Transit Justice's primer for candidates for office
- The reduction in transit funding in the President's budget and the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, which must be reauthorized by September 30
- The MaineDOT Workforce Transportation Pilot initiative

12. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was put forward by Tom Reinahuer. It was seconded by Josh Caldwell and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The next full PTAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10.

PTAC Year-at-a-Glance (Starting 2026–2027 Cycle)

This outline is an effort to stage work across the year so that report writing does not end up being rushed or done by a few people. This way, everyone contributes and the writers have what they need to draft the report, time for all to comment on the report, and to deliver the report on time.

Committee Work Guidelines

- **Each committee produces at least one deliverable per year** (e.g., data snapshot, policy brief, stakeholder engagement summary).
- **Equity Committee reviews** each committee’s deliverables for representation and inclusion.
- **Report Committee starts assembly in fall of even years** so that by early 2027, the heavy lifting is already done.

2025

- December (Full PTAC - Virtual)
 - Discuss and agree to Agenda development
 - Include occasional guest speakers, meetings with other groups, etc.
 - Include time for hearing about what’s new, good news, bad news
 - Discuss and agree to DRAFT Timeline
 - Discuss and agree to DRAFT Committee Charters
 - Check on Committee membership, revise as needed
 - Choose leaders
 - Discuss MaineDOT report to Transportation Committee per LD 1359
 - Discuss LD 1451 progress

2026

- January (Steering/Committees – Virtual)
 - Steering develops a PTAC “year roadmap.”
 - Committees set annual work plans.
- February (Full PTAC - Virtual)
 - Discuss and Approve roadmap and annual work plans.
 - Launch committee priorities.
- March (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Committees begin work on assigned areas (e.g., data review, equity, policy scan).
 - Steering checks on progress.
- April (Full PTAC - Hybrid)
 - Committee updates: “what we’re digging into.”
 - Guest spotlight (provider, best practice).
- May (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Committees work on mid-year deliverables (State of Transit snapshot, policy options).

- Steering monitors alignment.
- June (Full PTAC - Virtual)
 - Mid-year review: progress against work plans.
 - Identify gaps or additional needs.
- July (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Deep dive sessions — e.g., Equity review of other committees, Policy scan of funding models.
- **August (FULL PTAC - VIRTUAL)**
 - Preliminary findings shared from committees.
 - Start discussing framing for 2027 biennial report.
- September (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Committees refine deliverables, prepare draft findings.
 - Steering starts mapping report outline.
- **October (Full PTAC – Best In-Person, also Hybrid)**
 - Review draft committee findings.
 - Agree on themes and priority recommendations.
- November (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Report Committee begins assembling first outline.
 - Equity Committee reviews for integration.
- December (Full PTAC - Virtual)
 - Year-end review: confirm progress, assign report drafting tasks for 2027.

2027 – Report Year

- January (Steering/Committees - Virtual)
 - Draft report sections completed.
 - Steering reviews for consistency.
- February (Full PTAC - Virtual)
 - Approve final report.
 - Submit to MaineDOT for their required response.
- **March 1 (DEADLINE)**
 - Report due to Governor and Legislature.
- **April (Full PTAC – Best In-Person, also Hybrid)**
 - Reflect on report process.
 - Begin setting agenda for next cycle.