

Meeting Minutes

Transportation Working Group (TWG) – Maine Climate Council

Meeting details: Monday, June 29, 2026, 9 am -10 am, Virtual meeting

1) Welcome

- Introductions.

2) Presentation by TWG Co-Chairs and Efficiency Maine Trust

The Co-Chairs' presentation covered updates on:

- Current federal funding landscape.
- The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) funding challenges: Discussed how achieving many Transportation goals is related to these funding issues.
- Public and Shared Transportation:
 1. Portland got a "Safe Street for All" Grant.
 2. Gorham-Westbrook-Portland Bus Rapid Transit Design.
 3. Cambridge Systematics (CS) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Study
 - Maine Turnpike Authority and MaineDOT hired CS to study greenhouse gas impacts and mitigation measures for proposed capacity expansion projects in Maine.
 - CS scope of work will engage stakeholders, and the plan is to present information at a late 2026 TWG meeting on the guide's purpose, usage, and sample projects.
- Resilience Update:
 - Maine Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Fund: A funding program for municipalities or tribal governments to adapt existing public working waterfront infrastructure, reducing vulnerability to climate change, sea-level rise, coastal flooding, and other impacts.
 - Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund: Funding program for public entities (municipalities, tribal governments, infrastructure districts) to upgrade critical infrastructure

to reduce vulnerability to extreme weather, sea level rise, inland and coastal flooding, and other impacts. The Request for Applications opened in March 2026 and closed on May 11, 2026. A total of 117 applications are currently under review.

Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) presentation:

- EMT provided background information on their organization, incentives, financing, tools, and installer databases for electric vehicles, as well as an overview of funding from electric ratepayers, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, federal grants, and others.

See the accompanying PowerPoint presentation for more information.

3) Transportation Climate Research Update

See the accompanying PowerPoint presentation for more information

4) Discussion

A summary of TWG members' and public questions and responses is listed below.

- **Question raised for EMT about tracking and reporting on EV sales:** Is there a way to identify quarterly sales data instead of yearly and inventory at dealerships? **Response:** It could be tried, but data on sales that receive rebates is more accessible, whereas overall sales data is a labor-intensive process. Also, competitors consider the sales data proprietary, so they're unlikely to share their total sales. Monthly tracking of the number of rebates is performed. September (2025) to March (2025) numbers were dismal. April and May (2026) have rebounded nicely. It goes in waves. Middle- and lower-income buyers, including businesses, likely benefit from the rebate, except for cars with a high Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP). Cars are basically being bought by Mainers before they get off the truck. During the pandemic, it wasn't an inventory issue, but now cars are available, and more are arriving.

- **Comment for Transportation Climate Research:** There are various microtransit services in Vermont (VT). Vermont Energy Investment Corp. supports the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in electrifying all VT transit agencies. Suggested connecting with them about microtransit.
- **Comment for Transportation Climate Research:** TWG member mentioned she is collaborating with the Public Transit Advisory Council (PTAC) and plans to reach out to the presenter to emphasize the need for incentives for volunteer drivers who assist older adults and individuals with mobility challenges.
- **Question for Transportation Climate Research:** From your rural transportation research, did you ask about EVs and charging? Would like to see any summary information you have on what you heard about EVs in rural areas. The commenter is doing some charging-planning work in rural Cumberland County and conducting outreach and surveys. **Response:** This research was primarily focused on areas that have not received much attention yet, so we didn't spend much time on EVs and chargers.
- **Question to the TWG Co-Chairs:** Curious about what is next for the group? **Response:** One of the next steps is the GHG study mentioned earlier. The annual report is due in December, and we are working to highlight the work we have been doing and the challenges we have faced.
- **Question to TWG Co-Chairs:** Is anyone on the call involved in the Northeast Freight Corridor process who knows the next steps or has updates on its status, the charging plan, or Maine's involvement? **Response:** It is believed that their report has been completed for some time now. Explained that the report explored about 130 sites throughout the Northeast and the need for heavy-duty charging. The link for the report was provided in the chat.
- **Comment** raised regarding microtransit in Aroostook County for Transportation Climate Research: TWG member will follow up with the presenter.

5) Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Words of farewell to Jeff Crawford on his retirement.
- The Annual Progress Report for Maine Won't Wait will be released in December 2026.