



# Meeting Notes

Date: 9/7/22 Notes Taken By: Jack Benoit

Place: Virtual (MS Teams)

Project No.: 55607.01 Re: Bangor-Portland Transit Propensity Study  
Advisory Committee Meeting #1

## ATTENDEES:

Nathan Howard, MaineDOT  
Nathan Moulton, MaineDOT  
Natalie Bogart, NNEPRA  
Sarah Devlin, BACTS

Keith Luke, City of Augusta  
Joe Leonard, City of Bangor  
Jeffrey Mann, Amtrak  
Ben Blunt, Concord Coach Lines

Maggie Maddox, VHB  
Tim Bryant, VHB  
Jack Benoit, VHB  
Kathryn Rasmussen, VHB

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## Presentation

Maggie Maddox, VHB provided an overview of the Bangor Transit Propensity Study. The purpose of the study is to understand potential travel and cost for enhanced transit service between Bangor and Portland. The study area includes the 130-mile corridor between Portland and Bangor, including Brunswick, August, and Waterville. The evaluation will consider existing travel data, Downeaster ridership, peer corridor reviews, and existing bus service.

## Discussion

MaineDOT and VHB solicited feedback from the stakeholders on the slide deck presented during the meeting. The team confirmed that slide deck would be distributed after the meeting.

The team confirmed that travel times, population, and other relevant factors are being considered in each peer study area in order to most accurately estimate demand propensity for Bangor-Portland. The team was asked whether travel times along parallel highway corridors for each peer segment are being considered, VHB answered this would be helpful to get a sense of how traffic congestion compares across segments.

The representative from Concord Coach Lines confirmed that the Concord Coach only makes three trips a day along the corridor, and that the fourth is a coastal service. Additionally, it was confirmed that Concord Coach is pulling available data on the Bangor-Portland corridor for consideration in the study.

The team was asked about capturing connections to local transit services, VHB noted that this study is more high level, but any local transit ridership would be considered as part of the study.

The representative from BACTS asked about considerations in how The University of Maine in Orono could affect ridership propensity and whether peer corridors included universities. The team noted they would consider universities among peer corridors.

## Study Next Steps

- VHB to estimate demand propensity and order of magnitude cost estimates for up to 4 enhanced transit scenarios based on peer review
- VHB to schedule Advisory Group Meeting #2 to review outcomes