

**MaineDOT Locally Coordinated Transit Plan**

**Region 5**

**Waldo Community Action Partners  
dba/Mid-Coast Public Transportation (MCPT)**

**Bath CityBus**

**FY 2013 – FY 2017  
Locally Coordinated Plan Update**

**Updated May, 2017**

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**Region 5**  
**Waldo, Knox, Sagadahoc, Lincoln Counties and**  
**The Towns of Brunswick & Harpswell in Cumberland County (demand response)**

**Summary of Service Changes since FY 2012**

**Waldo CAP, dba/Mid-Coast Public Transportation (MCPT)**

- **Name change.** For marketing purposes, Waldo County Transportation has changed its name and is now doing business as Mid-Coast Public Transportation (MCPT).
- **Service to southern portion of Region 5.** In late summer, we began transportation for the southern part of Region 5 previously serviced by Coastal Trans, Inc. specifically Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc counties and the towns of Brunswick and Harpswell.
- **Routes being developed.** Routes for the southern part of the region are in development.

**Bath CityBus**

- **No change.** No significant service changes since FY12.

**Accomplishments since FY 2012**

**Mid-Coast Public Transportation**

- **Ridership growth.** General public ridership has continuously grown from 2013 through 2016 and we expect it to continue to grow as we develop the southern part of the region.
- **Public outreach.** MCPT has been conducting outreach and education with interested parties and community representatives to identify needs.
- **Municipal meetings.** MCTP has met with all towns in the expanded coverage area.

**Bath CityBus**

- **New vehicles.** Acquired two new vehicles to modernize the fleet; principal vehicles are now 2013 and 2016 model years, reducing maintenance costs and improving reliability.
- **Travel training workshops.** Held ‘travel training’ workshops with Bath Housing Authority, orienting new passengers to the process of catching and using the bus, reading the map and schedule, and introducing operations staff to riders.

## Report on Projects and Priorities in the FY 2013-2017 Locally Coordinated Plan

### Mid-Coast Public Transportation

- **Vouchers**
  - MCTP is working towards expanding Ride with Pride into the southern part of the region. The Mobility Manager has been working with taxi cab companies to accept Ride with Pride Vouchers. Three companies have entered into agreement to accept vouchers. We are still in negotiations with one cab company and two public transit providers to accept vouchers.
  - Funding to purchase vouchers remains an issue.
- **Sustainable System**
  - MCTP's Director has created software applications that capture data necessary for accurate and timely reporting and ensuring program requirements.
  - MCTP's drivers are using tablets to enter trip completion data as it happens. This live data transmission increases the timeliness and accuracy for reporting.
- **Belfast Shopper**
  - The Belfast Shopper continues to have low ridership. We are currently discussing the feasibility of route and scheduling revisions.
- **Expansion in the western region of Waldo County**
  - MCTP continues to struggle with recruitment of drivers not only for our expanded service area but also the western region of Waldo County.

### Bath CityBus

- **Additional funding.** No outside sources of local funding have been secured for the bus service. However, the City Council has consistently provided full funding to support this system.
- **Update the fleet.** New vehicles have been acquired and are planned for acquisition, staggering the purchases to insure replacements do not 'stack' in the future.
- **Expansion of service.** Discussions have been held between Bath CityBus and Western Maine Transportation (operators of the Brunswick Explorer) over how connections to-and-from Brunswick and Mid Coast Hospital could be completed more directly and more

frequently. Implementation has been delayed until a regional transit study is completed by WMTS.

- **Arrange for more consistent and timely service.** Bath Public Works continues to maintain our fleet. With some small increases in funding for maintenance, the Bath CityBus has been able to cover the overtime required to have Public Works mechanics complete repairs on vehicles in a more timely way.
- **Expand ridership profile.** ‘Travel training’ workshops have been held to recruit and train new riders; information and basic advertising of the service is now available where new citizens register vehicles and pay taxes.
- **Interconnections with the Brunswick Explorer.** Discussions have been held between Bath CityBus and Western Maine Transportation (operators of the Brunswick Explorer) over how connections to-and-from Brunswick and Mid Coast Hospital could be completed more directly and more frequently. Implementation has been delayed until a regional transit study is completed by WMTS.
- **Marketing.** Decals and aesthetic improvements for the vehicles are to be executed spring 2017.
- **Deploy transit shelters and signage.** Signage for checkpoints has been designed.
- **Prepare a long-range plan for personnel.** No actions.
- **Enhance the route map.** The route map and schedule have been updated and upgraded to make it more legible and accessible. GTFS feeds will be available for public consumption in FY17.
- **Review and revise plans and policies.** Completed as necessary.

## New Topics of Interest

The following ideas were identified and prioritized at a public transit workshop held at the Mid-Coast Public Transportation office in Belfast on November 14, 2016. An anonymous polling system was used to determine instant digital ratings. There were 20 people who participated in the polling and a total of 21 questions. The polling results obtained at the workshop are summarized for each question.

It was explained to those in attendance that support for a topic of interest does not guarantee its implementation. Transit providers face many challenges, not least of which are budget considerations, as well as opportunities that may not be foreseen at this time.

In addition, MaineDOT reserves the right to address service gaps by redirecting funds to other groups and organizations, even though such actions could negatively impact one or more of the identified areas of interest summarized and rated below.

**Region 5 Rating of New Topics of Interest**

1. How important is public transportation to you?

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	70.00%	14
Somewhat Important	15.00%	3
Little Importance	10.00%	2
No opinion	5.00%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

2. Have you or a member of your family used public transit?

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Yes	21.05%	4
No	78.95%	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

3. Voucher revisions – improvements for visual/learning disabilities

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	42.11%	8
Somewhat Important	36.84%	7
Little Importance	21.05%	4
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

4. Review Camden/Rockland feasibility study

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	50.00%	10
Somewhat Important	40.00%	8
Little Importance	10.00%	2
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

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5. Ride share – Lincoln County feasibility study

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	80.00%	4
Somewhat Important	0.00%	0
Little Importance	20.00%	1
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>

6. Rail and bus transportation in MidCoast Corridor

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	45.00%	9
Somewhat Important	40.00%	8
Little Importance	15.00%	3
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

7. General public service in Rockland – demand response

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	40.00%	8
Somewhat Important	25.00%	5
Little Importance	30.00%	6
No opinion	5.00%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

8. Dialysis transportation for non-MaineCare poor in Lincoln County and Bath

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	45.00%	9
Somewhat Important	25.00%	5
Little Importance	30.00%	6
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

9. Better connections to MidCoast Hospital

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	57.89%	11
Somewhat Important	21.05%	4
Little Importance	10.53%	2
No opinion	10.53%	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

10. Better connections to other health services/social services

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	63.16%	12
Somewhat Important	26.32%	5
Little Importance	10.53%	2
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

11. More volunteer drivers

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	47.37%	9
Somewhat Important	26.32%	5
Little Importance	26.32%	5
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

12. Strengthen volunteer networks

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	52.63%	10
Somewhat Important	42.11%	8
Little Importance	5.26%	1
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

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13. Rename/Rebrand/Remarket Waldo Transportation

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	78.95%	15
Somewhat Important	15.79%	3
Little Importance	5.26%	1
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

14. Build relationships with non-Waldo towns for local share

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	73.68%	14
Somewhat Important	21.05%	4
Little Importance	5.26%	1
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

15. More funding – Federal/State/Local

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	50.00%	9
Somewhat Important	11.11%	2
Little Importance	27.78%	5
No opinion	11.11%	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18</b>

16. Link Bath/Brunswick/Topsham/Freeport feasibility study including Brunswick Landing

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	68.42%	13
Somewhat Important	21.05%	4
Little Importance	5.26%	1
No opinion	5.26%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

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17. Comprehensive transportation inventory of services in all of Region 5/Ride Finder

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	94.74%	18
Somewhat Important	0.00%	0
Little Importance	0.00%	0
No opinion	5.26%	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

18. Bath – integrated brand in lower half of Region 5.

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	42.11%	8
Somewhat Important	10.53%	2
Little Importance	26.32%	5
No opinion	21.05%	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

19. Social transportation – extend hours and days of service

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	73.68%	14
Somewhat Important	21.05%	4
Little Importance	5.26%	1
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19</b>

20. Emerging needs

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very Important	30.00%	6
Somewhat Important	30.00%	6
Little Importance	10.00%	2
No opinion	30.00%	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

21. Employment transportation

<b>Responses</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Very Important	45.00%	9
Somewhat Important	40.00%	8
Little Importance	15.00%	3
No opinion	0.00%	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>

**One-Way Trips FY 2013 – 2016**

**Mid-Coast Public Transportation**

<b>MCPT Demand Response Trips</b>				
	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
MaineCare	73,450	39,005	42,708	45,279
DHHS Other	4,250	4,827	7,011	5,156
General Public	4,757	7,635	8,680	12,375
Other	6,681	2,522	1,446	2,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,138</b>	<b>53,989</b>	<b>59,845</b>	<b>65,597</b>

**Bath CityBus**

<b>Bath CityBus Flex Route Trips</b>				
	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
General Public	13,569	13,576	12,329	13,059

**Public Participation Summary**

Public participation has played a central role in planning and providing general public transit services in Region 5. MCPT and Bath CityBus value the important role that the public plays in ensuring that general public transit services continue to support the economic and social fabric of the communities they serve. The following highlights major public participation milestones.

**Mid-Coast Public Transportation**

- MCTP reached out to every municipality in Region 5 to open the conversation about transportation needs.
- MCTP hosted the November 14, 2016 Transportation Workshop where future priorities and projects were identified and progress made or not.
- MCTP meets with community stake holders to gather feedback on available transportation resources and potential future needs. Stake holders include but are not limited to:

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- Senior groups
- Low Income groups
- Civic groups
- Local employers
- Health and mental health providers

### **Bath CityBus**

- With Texas A&M University, completed a city-wide, scientific survey of satisfaction and use of the Bath CityBus.
- Held ‘travel training’ workshops with residents of Bath Housing Authority properties. Provided free passes for new riders.
- Engaged and facilitated newspaper articles on public transportation and regional cooperation.
- Participated in the November 14, 2016 Transportation Workshop held at Waldo CAP in Belfast.