I. **Current updates**
   - June tax numbers trending in the right direction, while there is still a decrease in YOY restaurant and lodging. Past 3 months combined compared to last year, Restaurants down 46% and lodging down 70%.
   - Retail is recovering a bit faster, but still differs between the type of retailer. Revenue from online shopping is significant with the addition of the online shopping tax.
   - Auto sales – inventory is still an issue, but slowly starting to come in.

II. **Infrastructure**
   - Thinking about what infrastructure means to this HT&R subcommittee –
   - Childcare is an area that needs continued focus and getting people back to work.
   - Challenges of selling Maine Experience as a way to get outdoors, unplug, get away, but visitors still need WIFI and other technologies in addition to the authentic Maine experience.
   - Infrastructure in retail sectors – e-commerce advancements
   - Infrastructure Restaurants – curbside, take-out improvements and modifications, order and payment processing continue to evolve but still a lot of work to do.
   - Housing Infrastructure for the workforce is an important issue for the HT&R industries.
   - Food/Farm to Table – there’s a lot of great food grown and harvested in Maine, but there’s a lot of work to do to because it is not widely used and marketed in the state, because there is a lack of infrastructure for distribution throughout the state. Labor needed to develop, infrastructure needed to for preservation and distribution. Logistics related to the local food supply chain – trucking, freezing, marketing, etc.
     - Possible guests to hear from: UMaine programs, Farmer’s Credit Union, Food Banks, Fork Food Labs
   - Food/Farms can also play a role in the Hubs of Excellence outlined in the DECD 10-year plan.
   - Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association is working on a document for the larger ERC committee about food production and opportunities. There’s a lot going on the state about food production and source but there is not a comprehensive statewide strategy that is pulling it all together.
Discussion about cruise visitors and MotorCoach tours and transportation. There is no easy answer for the MotorCoach, Amtrak, public transportation issues.

- Are there changes made under the state of emergency and the executive orders that would be beneficial to keep or have expanded businesses opportunities?
- What initiatives can the subcommittee recommend regarding outdoor recreation infrastructure - trail systems, state park improvements, etc. while still preserving Maine’s natural resources and to sustainably manage these destinations and Maine’s outdoor recreation assets.

- **Public Input Received following HT&R subcommittee meeting** –
  1. **Maine’s meeting and convention businesses / industry.** Continued efforts to develop more / better convention spaces. Maine could benefit from better facilities to attract more modest sized conventions.
  2. **Maine’s urban centers** - Maine’s downtown centers provide not just places to eat and shop but also are cultural centers and gathering places for the community. One key way to protect these and the natural outdoor spaces nearby might be to limit development sprawl along state roads and concentrate services within the urban footprint as much as possible.
  3. **Cultural infrastructure needs** - theatres, galleries, museums, libraries, archives, community halls, cinemas, public art and outdoor events spaces – provide the critical spaces to create, share and enjoy arts and culture.
  4. Today’s lightbulb was mostly around the food topic. The whole food/beer industry is the one true thing that connects northern Maine to southern Maine. Our crops are making it possible for the industry to grow (locally) and it is a great story.
    - Tristan Noyes at the Maine Grain Alliance is a really great resource. We have a lot of grain farmers in Aroostook County and a malt house. The Maine Grain Alliance [https://mainegrains.com/](https://mainegrains.com/) really works hard to advocate for locally sourced food.
    - Jay LaJoie of Grand Prix Farms in Van Buren is another great voice for farming/food. Their family has been farming for generations and have diversified their crops in amazing ways. They also make the Terra Chips (blue) for Jet Blue. [https://www.farmingmagazine.com/bits-and-pieces/farm-management/lajoie-growers-generational-potato-farmers/](https://www.farmingmagazine.com/bits-and-pieces/farm-management/lajoie-growers-generational-potato-farmers/)
  5. The University of Maine, Orono also has a **food lab** where people can rent space to test new products and it is amazing. So that option is not just in Portland.
  6. Thank you so much for your thoughts about parks, trails, and lands. I hope the committee will consult with Carolann Ouellette at the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, as well as others with expertise, including the folks at the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Infrastructure needs:
    - information and interpretation: what is available, and deeper info about it once you are there, e.g. signs, brochures, programs as appropriate
    - stewardship: staff to maintain the resource so that the experience remains positive. This includes cleaning up litter, unfortunately, that has increased as a result of overuse. Also, toilets (incl vault toilets) that are maintained
· more trails and places to go. Fund the Land for Maine's Future program. Ensure we can meet the match to draw down the funds available through the Great American Outdoors Act--this supports close-to-home outdoor recreation.

· Invest in our state parks: maintenance (as basic as sewer systems and parking lots); ensure they have disability access, critical for attracting older visitors; interpretation and programming; adequate staff!

· The committee dismissed as impossible public transportation, but it's a valid idea. Extend train service. Acadia has had great success with its bus system, the Island Explorer - taking pressure off parking lots and roads on MDI. What destinations in Maine would be suitable for buses?

· All of this, of course, is dependent on a clean and beautiful environment and healthy fisheries and other ecosystems!

7. In the rural areas, Bethel, Moosehead, Rangeley – destination areas, affordable workforce housing is a big issue – emphasis on affordable! Due to Air BnB, Vacasa and other entities in the “sharing economy” most of the housing stock is simply not available anymore to workers. Everyone in these areas is having difficulty offering great hospitality due to lack of enough workforce to serve the public. Some of that is due to lack of affordable housing.