

Scarborough Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

1. Attendance: Jen Ladd (Chair), Councilor Jon Anderson, Roger Beeley, Craig Robinson, Tuck Barclay, Portia Hirschman (remote), Peter Frelinger (remote)
 - Staff: Angela Blanchette (Town Engineer)
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes February 25, 2025
 - Motion to Approve: Portia Hirschman, seconded by Craig Robinson
 - Motion passes unanimous
3. Presentation by Greater Portland METRO
 - Mike Tremblay, P.E., Director of Transit Development provided a presentation on Metro-Connect an on-demand public transit service that is currently being piloted in Falmouth with some initial success.
 - Metro Connect is a limited on-demand service in East Falmouth. Residents are able to book a ride from anywhere within the service area, and the 10-12 passenger van will pick them up. Metro Connect passengers can board the vehicle at one of many “virtual stops” located throughout the service area. Stops are usually less than a five-minute walk to the rider’s location.
 - There are Federal funds allocated to expand transit service. These funds help provide the initial monies necessary to get a new program off the ground with little municipal support. Once established the municipality, as a member community, helps subsidize the program based on the demand and ridership that the Town would like to see.
 - This on-demand service is intended to compliment the fixed route service. Metro intends to also begin discussions to improve fixed service in South Portland and Scarborough. There are opportunities to revamp the system as this work happens in the region.
 - Next steps: Greater Portland Metro will be presenting to Town Council at a Workshop on April 16, 2025.

4. Project Updates

- Angela reviewed the follow projects:
 - Safe Streets 4 All is a Federal grant that PACTS has been awarded to look at 11 projects in the region. Scarborough has 2 projects on this list, which were recommended by the Scarborough Transportation Committee in 2023. PACTS has hired Stantec as the consultant to look at the first project at the intersection of Route 1 and Sawyer Road. They are developing conceptual plans to look at pedestrian safety and crossing of this intersection. We will have a plan to review at the next meeting.
 - Eastern Trail will be out to bid later this week. Bids for the construction activity are due on April 17, 2025. We will provide the committee with continued updates as we move through this project.
 - The Route 1 marsh crossing led by the Maine Department of Transportation has be paused due to reevaluation of grant funding of resiliency projects at Federal Highway Administration. We are anticipating that the grant opportunity will open back up at some point in the future and MDOT will continue to work on the project until that time.
- Public Comments
 - Joining our committee was the Age Friendly Committee members including Gail Platts, staff liaison from Community Services Department and a few members of the committee. In addition, we had Meredith Anderson from Southern Maine Agency on Aging.
 - The Age Friendly Committee is requesting that we help move the public transit initiative forward to Council.
 - Southern Agency on Aging provide some data on the need and relayed comments and concerns that they have heard of lack of reliable and consistent public transit to the locations that are needed for this demographic.
- Adjourn (8:10 PM)