

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

April 22, 2026 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Committee (in person): Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Lydia Jopp, Deb McDonough, Dan Shapiro

Committee (Zoom): Geoff Gezik,

Town Council: Bill Donovan

Staff: Angela Blanchette, Jami Fitch, Autumn Speer

Guests: Mike Tremblay, Greater Portland Metro

[Meeting recording](#)

Call to Order

1. The meeting is called to order at 8:03 am.
2. Lydia motions to approve the minutes, Ron seconds. Vote was unanimous. Motion passes.

Public Comment

1. None.

Old Business

1. Metro Transit Pilot
 - Mike Tremblay of Greater Portland Metro provides a presentation about the proposed fixed-route and micro transit pilot (slides attached).
 - Questions and comments from the Committee:
 - Will Metro coordinate service with BSOOB?
Yes – Metro's Route 1 stops will be the same as BSOOB's stops. BSOOB's frequency is lower than Metro's (BSOOB = 2 hrs, Metro = 45 mins), so there may be wait times for transfers between the lines.
 - Deb notes that people with cars may still park their car and ride transit to Portland to save on parking, multi-task, etc.
 - Could the micro transit zone change?
If there is demand from areas not currently served by micro transit, Metro is open to adjusting the zone.
 - Does South Portland also have micro transit?
No, but they have more fixed routes. South Portland is interested in micro transit, but they have not allocated the required cost-sharing.
 - Deb suggests speaking with local businesses close the fixed route about designating a spot or two as a park and ride space to access Metro.
 - What is the micro transit vehicle and how does it work?
The vehicles is a 15-passenger bus. People will be picked up at their home or the

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nearest cross-street (goal is for the pick up location to be less than a 3 minute walk). The bus will bring them to the fixed route or a location within the micro transit zone. A return trip can be booked in advance via Metro's app or calling them to book the trip.

- Do kids ride micro transit?
Yes. Metro does not have policies around who rides with adults. There are reduced rates for youth riders.
- What is the current fare?
\$2/trip for most people. Seniors, youth, veterans, etc. qualify for reduced fare (\$1).
- What is Metro's funding structure?
About 20% of Metro's costs are covered by fares, ~50% is subsidized by the Federal government, and the rest is covered by partner municipalities. Rider fare is taken off the municipality's cost, so the more riders a community has, the lower the financial contribution for the municipality.
- Will there be a way to see when the bus will arrive at the bus stop?
Yes, all busses are equipped with trackers that can be viewed on a smart phone app. Metro is also working on launching signage at bus stops. Portland stops will receive the signage first. The stops in The Downs may also have them, because The Downs is funding the stops within their development.
- Angela shares that Scarborough's Age Friendly Committee is strongly advocating for improved transit service, and the Transportation Committee supports transit as a solution for Scarborough's traffic challenges.
- Will Metro collect data during the pilot?
Yes, Metro collects data on ridership, on and off points, etc. Metro will also survey riders and non-riders to understand community opinions on the service. The data will help the Town decide whether to enter into a long-term commitment with Metro after the three-year pilot.
- Will any of the buses be electric?
No. Metro has experienced challenges with their current electric buses so they're waiting until the technology improves before incorporating more into their fleet.
- Are consistent micro transit trips with one passenger a success?
No. Metro will make adjustments to the program to achieve more pooled trips.
- The Committee suggests taking transit to the September meeting.
- The Sustainability Committee discusses providing a memo to the Town Council in support of the Metro pilot. The letter should note the importance of transit to achieving climate and emissions goals and that improved transit is supported by the Town's 2017 Energy and Sustainability Plan.
- *Ron motions to authorize Jami to draft a memo on behalf of the Sustainability Committee in support of the transit pilot. Lydia seconds. Vote is unanimous. Motion passes.*
- Committee members are encouraged to also provide public comment at the Town Council's 5/6 meeting.
- **ACTION: JAMI will draft a memo and send it to DEB and LYDIA for review. DEB will send the memo to the Town Council once final.**

2. Climate Action Plan (tabled)

- Jami encourages the Committee to review the proposed actions that were provided with the meeting materials.

Updates

1. Town Council

- Bill plans to speak to fellow Councilors about supporting the transit pilot.

- Town Council will have a workshop on the Route 1 lane closure pilot before the 5/6 meeting.
- 2. Planning Board
 - Planning Board will review the proposed on short term rental ordinance.
 - Planning Board recently received an application for a data center off Holmes Road.
 - There is a role for the Sustainability Committee to provide input on the Town's policy/ordinance on data centers. Jami will look for resources to share with the group and explore inviting an expert on the issue to attend a future meeting.
- 3. Conservation Commission
 - Conservation Commission continues to support the development of a Low Impact Development ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026 at 8:00 am.

Future Projects List:

- School Building Process
- Communications, outreach, and engagement
- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Revamp [Sustainability Committee webpage](#)
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting/food waste
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Coordination with Scarborough Public Schools
- Municipal building energy audits
- Electric school buses
- Tree preservation ordinance
- Swap shop
- Energy stretch code
- Incremental fees for trash bins
- 10-year cost-benefit analysis for building systems
- Storm drain stenciling

GREATER PORTLAND METRO

Scarborough Town Council Workshop

April 1, 2026



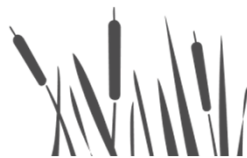
Glenn Fenton

Executive Director

Greater Portland Metro

Presentation Overview

- Review of planning activities
- Implementation plan
- Project budget review
- Intergovernmental agreement terms



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Service Planning

Public Outreach

- Public outreach for Scarborough service conducted in November/December 2025
 - Combined with South Portland service change outreach
- 3 public meetings
- Survey
 - 300+ responses
 - Online, available in print



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metro
next stop!
South Portland | Scarborough

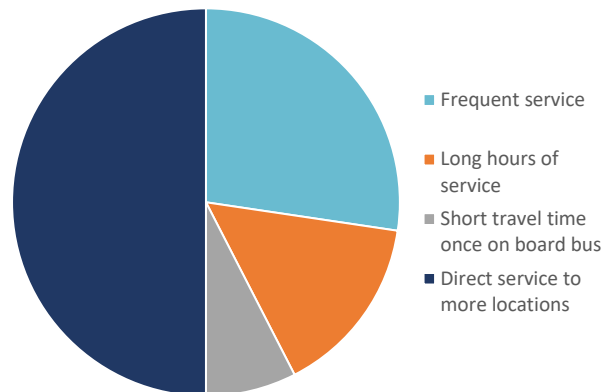
Service Planning

Summary of Public Outreach

- Reasons for Travel
 - Shopping (70%)
 - Social Activities (54%)
 - Health services (51%)
 - Work (41%)
- Origins and destinations in Scarborough
 - Hannaford
 - Beaches
 - MaineHealth
 - The Downs (Costco)
 - Route 1
 - Walmart
 - Prouts Neck

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metro
next stop!
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Top Service Priority



Service Planning

Summary of Public Outreach

- Likelihood to use transit service
 - 79% likely/very likely to use service
 - 96% likely/very likely among those who don't drive

What would encourage you to use bus service in Scarborough?

- Direct routes to Portland and South Portland
- Convenient stop locations that are walkable from home
- Frequent service
- Fast service
- Park and ride in Scarborough

Direct service to the beach to reduce parking pressure

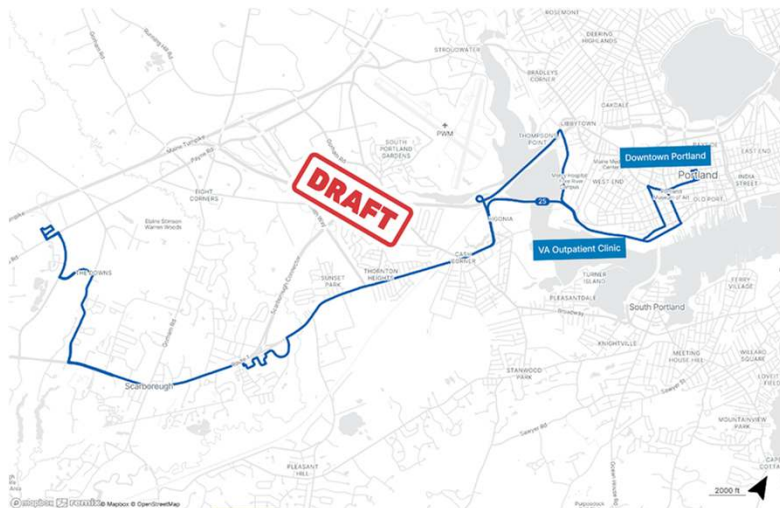
Bus service may exacerbate crowding at beaches

Transit in Scarborough

Route 25

Current DRAFT schedule:

- 45 minute frequency service (Mon-Sat)
- 60 minute frequency on Sundays
- 6:00 am to 10:00 pm



Transit in Scarborough

Microtransit

Microtransit Zone

- Refined by Metro and Town staff
- Operates 7 days a week.
- Service hours similar to fixed route service.
- Covers numerous Town services, recreational and commercial areas.
- Approx. 10,000 population
- Approx. 11,300 jobs



Implementation Plan

Service Launch

- Fleet acquisition (June)
- Bus stop installation (July)
- Operator training (June/July)
- Public outreach/promotion (Summer 2026)
- Service soft launch (early July)
- Microtransit launch (July 13)
- Route 25 launch (late August)



Transit in Scarborough

Funding Plan

The service is fully funded for 3+ years with Scarborough's approval.

Scarborough's financial commitment for the pilot phase:

Fiscal Year	Town's Share of Capital Expense	Town's Share of Operating Expense	Total Payment	Payment Due Date
2026-27	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000	July 31, 2026
2027-28	\$0	\$145,000	\$145,000	July 31, 2027
2028-29	\$0	\$159,500	\$159,500	July 31, 2028

Project funding sources:

Funding Source	Amount
Maine Turnpike Authority	\$3,555,771
Federal Transit Administration	\$1,356,250
MaineDOT	\$230,000
Scarborough (over 3 years)	\$369,500
Total Funding	\$5,511,521

Note: Metro is currently in negotiations with the Downs to assist with capital funding for bus stop improvements in Scarborough. Total funding amount to be determined.



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Greater Portland Metro

Intergovernmental Agreement

- Same format used for the Towns of: Brunswick, Freeport, and Yarmouth prior to joining Metro.
- Outlines the responsibilities of the parties.
- Details the financial commitments of the parties.
- Sets deadlines for certain milestones.



Greater Portland Metro

Intergovernmental Agreement

Terms of the agreement

Metro responsibilities:

- Regular reporting on service performance
- Maintenance of bus stops in the Town
- Consultation with the Town on service changes
- Compliance with all federal and state laws pertaining to transit operations
- Recommendation based on service performance at the end of the pilot period



Greater Portland Metro

Intergovernmental Agreement

Terms of the agreement

Scarborough responsibilities:

- Report damaged or vandalized bus stops.
- Fund the service as specified for three years (\$369,500 total).
- Hold a vote to consider joining Metro.



Greater Portland Metro

Intergovernmental Agreement

Terms of the agreement

Other terms:

- Termination by either party with 120 days notice, Metro to retain funding for capital investments (\$65,000).
- Unspent funding at the end of the pilot phase will be applied solely to support the continuation of the service.
- Service launch will be no later than September 1, 2026.
- Scarborough must decide to join or not join Metro by July 15, 2028.



Questions and Discussion



Glenn Fenton

Executive Director

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