

Transportation
May 13, 2010
4:00-5:15

Members Present: Penny Vaillancourt, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Rosemary Winslow, Jim Wood

1. Jim presented a map that he received at Transit Advisory meeting.
 - Jim met with Colby, and they want service to replace jitney service.
 - This creates a problem on weekends because jitneys run until 2 AM.
 - Chris: Does Colby have an escort program? Jim doesn't think so.
 - We might be able to extend service until 8 PM.
 - Doing runs now for after-school program at Alford
 - Jim: somewhat dependent on Maine General
 - currently a stop listed for Seton (but that might be changed)
 - Straight shuttle from downtown to various points; would function better if a tighter, continuous loop
 - looking to expand to a 2 bus system/ could combine 2 loops
 - go into Fairfield through Ridge Rd. to accommodate Maine Dartmouth & KVCC
 - Marden's providing some funding.
 - One obstacle is having to wait too long for the bus.
 - Changing the look of the system. Even though the current system is public, the perception is that it isn't.
 - To be named, *Kennebec Explorer* with peregrine falcon as the logo
 - Getting low floor buses
 - Rosemary: 2 buses for upper Kennebec; 3 buses for lower Kennebec; 1 in between
 - Elery wonder if covering Skowhegan. Jim: Yes, Somerset Heart Health & New Balance gave a grant to get kids moving more. Public bus route go through Skowhegan to various locations (Lake George, rec fields, etc).
 - Done an employee survey in Somerset County of commuter needs
 - Rosemary: approached by SCARP for funding at federal level/ trying to change perception to connect more with employees (as opposed to kids); hoping to mirror the BAT system in Bangor
 - Jim: need for better service than currently available as the population continues to age. In a temporary reprieve with gasoline prices. Independence is going to change because of fixed incomes.
 - Elery important to have a plan that is ready to go when the prices go up again.
 - Need a reliable system for employees/ need to know shift schedule
 - Elery is glad we are getting key local employers to help foot the bill.
 - Rosemary: curious about current bus from Maine General—do we have info on rider use? Jim: Not heavily used; Maine General committed to a plan to help with funding for transportation

- Service in Augusta to The Career Center & Togus, but not linked yet to Waterville
- Chris: The next growth area is Rt. 27 area.
- Chris wondered about Thomas College. Jim: got no response until recently
- Jim: The struggle is the farther we push the route out, the routes aren't as tight. Sprawl causes routes to be too long.
- Ridership has been good.
- Need to mainstream public transportation
- Linda wondered about advertising. Somewhat limited in funding.
- Starting to see more people in rural areas with health issues who need transportation to hospital
- Under Medicaid there is a transportation component, but not under Medicare
- Elery: Does the map show a design for more than 2 buses? Jim: Yes, it is designed for 4, but can use 2. At various times, compact in-town routes with satellite routes at periodic points.
- Elery need a plan that can expand as more buses become available.
- Rosemary: The bus's naming & look needs to be associated with more than one piece of the population.
- Rosemary: It would be good to have a singular location for pick up & drop-off in town. Jim: inside the Concourse along Silver St. Extension is his hope.
- Penny: There is New Freedom money available for bus shelter & bike racks.
- Jim: There was a holiday shuttle to assist with parking problems downtown. It was designed to get employees to park at Head of Falls.
- There are communities who have designed systems around their colleges. As college parking lots are displaced, there is more need for a transit system.
- Elery thinks KVCC would benefit from a transit system. Jim also working with UMA on this.

2. Park & Ride

- Penny: have to go through lawyers to get permission to use the space
- Chris: still thinking by Marden's
- Penny: several in Fairfield, too
- The current system ties into the Concord Coach Terminal.
- Chris: Greyhound stops at Colby Fieldhouse on certain trips.

3. Chris went to a public meeting on the synchronization of traffic signals in Waterville. This aligns with one of the goals for the Transportation Team.

4. Elery wonders about the railroad's using piggy-backs again. Chris hasn't heard this is going to be revitalized. Rosemary: The improvement of railroad has been discussed at the federal level.

The next meeting is **July 29 at 4:00 at KVCOG.**