

Transportation Meeting
October 27, 2011
3:30-5:15

Members & Guests Present: Bill Basford, Garrison Beck (Colby), Chris Huck, Peter Garrett, Elery Keene, Mike Steele (Colby), Penny Vaillancourt, Alex Wheelwright (Kennebec Valley Organization), Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Bill Basford did a presentation “De Motorization for ME.”

- According to AAA, in March 2011 the average cost of owning & operating a car was \$8776 a year.
- Since no vehicles are made in Maine and there are no oil wells here, the majority of this money leaves the state. This contributes to why Maine is such a poor state.
- Bill’s presentation was informative and interesting. He & Elery presented quite a picture of the cause and effect of motorization.
- If your group is interested in hosting this presentation, contact Bill at wbasford@zwi.net.

Jim reported that the *Kennebec Explorer* set a record for ridership last month with 4, 807 users.

Garrison & Mike are Colby students in a sustainable development class. For their course project, they are focusing on the *Kennebec Explorer* bus service.

- They are developing a survey for both riders & non-riders, particularly in the Waterville area. Their plan is survey who rides the bus; who people think ride the bus; how to increase ridership; how ridership has changed; suggested improvements for the bus system
- Will use the data on how to expand the ridership
- Another group is doing the same type of survey for the trails. Hoping to combine the results of both
- Will be going on the bus to administer the survey
- SMMC volunteers will help distribute this survey.

Jim’s meeting with WMSt.’s design committee went well. They are interested in working with us to have a covered bus stop in downtown.

Penny provided an update on the park & ride. Negotiations have not gone well, as the land owner wants more money than the state had to offer. Penny is trying to entice some businesses to make space available.

The next meeting will be at **3:30** on **Tuesday, November 29** at **KVCOG**.