

**Transportation Team**  
**April 26, 2012**  
**3:30—5:00**

**Members Present:** Joel Greenwood, Elery Keene, Rosemary Winslow, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

Everyone seems pleased by the presence of Save-A-Lot in the Concourse. There is a *Kennebec Explorer* stop nearby.

Rosemary summarized her recent activities. She will connect someone from the Wounded Warriors Program with Jim to discuss funding to coordinate bus transportation to Tongus.

*Kennebec Explorer* ridership set a record in 5 of 6 months. There were 6,344 rides in March. More people are looking for public transportation options. The next step is to expand the hours. The newer buses have ramps as opposed to steps. Riders seem to like this convenience. Rosemary concurred that the lack of public transportation is a problem in Somerset County. In Augusta two-third of match money has come from private businesses.

Jim distributed a copy of the research that was done by Caitlin Curcuruto, Mike Steele, and Garrison Beck, Colby students. They rode the buses and surveyed both riders and non-riders to discover what could be done to improve *Kennebec Explorer* service. The group recommended backcasting, which Jim has done. (Backcasting is “envisioning a better future and working backwards to see what needs to be done now” to implement it.)

According to the Colby survey, 65-70% of riders were seniors; currently 44% are seniors. Students are using it more, especially at KVCC. Seventy-nine percent do not have access to a personal motor vehicle. The majority of the riders use the bus 3 to 5 times a week. Predominately the bus is used for shopping with appointments being a close second. Convenience is the biggest reason for bus ridership. Overwhelmingly people find the schedule to be convenient.

The majority of non-riders stated they were unaware of the routes/schedules/stops.

Jim noted that hybrid buses are not as efficient as gas-powered buses. He is watching Brunswick’s stats as a comparison. (They have hybrids.)

Both Jim & Rosemary have met with Alex Wainwright of Kennebec Valley Organization.

Over the last month, Jim has been working closely with the Rotary. There are laminated time schedules and maps at many local businesses. Area businesses are cooperating. Walmart is considering a bus stop. A lot of credit for this goes to Kim Hawkes of the Rotary.

Saturday (4/29) was the Bus Rodeo at the Owl's Head Transportation Museum.

Action Item:

Jim: send article you wrote to Linda

The next meeting will be **Thursday, May 24 at 3:30** at KVCAP.

Chris missed this meeting because he was at a conference in Vermont. (We'll expect a report at the next meeting. ☺)

Scott Workman from the Bicycle Coalition of Maine will be speaking at this meeting.