

Transportation
June 28, 2012
3:30-5:00

Members Present: Peter Garrett, Joel Greenwood, Chris Huck, Elery Keene, Alex Wheelwright, Jim Wood, Linda Woods

A conversation occurred about how KVCOG is using its time to assist with community programs. If Waterville wants to do a bike/pedestrian plan, KVCOG is available at no additional cost. Joel summarized that the state was overwhelmed by the number of applications there were for a meager amount of funds.

Members expressed concern that the state is not maintaining roads & bridges as necessary. Elery wondered if the Transportation Team is interested in exploring ways to pay for this without increasing the gas tax. Various ideas were presented. Joel summarized how public transportation is funded in Europe.

Action Item:

Penny: share the department's policy on the prioritization process for capital work programming purposes

Alex reported on the KVO meetings in Waterville and Augusta that discuss meeting transportation issues for the lonely and elderly. Funding was continued for these services. The biggest obstacle is getting the word out.

KVO's Goal: to help increase KVCAP's services & fill in the gaps with SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone: Renew Courage and Hope). This program will get people to see seniors in their homes. This is a growing movement. How to publicize the bus schedule and availability of SEARCH was discussed.

Jim questioned whether the size threshold for a metropolitan area would be increased from 200,000 to 50,000, as proposed in federal legislation. Chris observed that this change was not part of the final bill. If it had passed, that would have eliminated Bangor and L-A as metro areas, affecting funding for transit and other transportation.

Peter wondered what this team should be doing about these problems. The role of the team is to support people who are living within the center of the city with public transportation and trails. We should market the importance of living within city limits since services are available. Maybe we should target the policy makers. Peter thinks the team needs to refocus on sprawl and land use. Joel wants to work with Waterville Main St. to increase affordable housing in central areas. Chris thinks Waterville needs to revise its comprehensive plan. Chris did of this for DOT, so some of this is available.

Action Items:

Joel & Chris: look into subdivision rules in relation to transportation (width, size, etc)

Jim: request a meeting with the Waterville City Council to discuss transportation issues and share what we think is important for long-term strategy. Peter suggested doing this presentation to Winslow, Oakland, & Fairfield.

Scott & Peter: prepare the aforementioned presentation

Jim: create a position paper & send this to Peter

Elery: prepare a list of who is on the transportation committee of the state legislature & send this to Linda to forward to all

Jim reported for the sixth time in seven months Kennebec Explorer ridership set a record in May with 6,392 riders. The Rotary is providing the funding for two bus shelters. One will be at The Concourse; the other, at Walmart.

The RX4 Team is looking for volunteers to help with composting at The Taste of Waterville on August 1 from noon to midnight. If you are available, contact Linda.

The next meeting will be **Thursday, August 23** at **3:30** at **KVCOG**.