AVCOG
WESTERN MAINE
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

AVCOG NEWS

Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties Winter 2012

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GO Maine Vanpool Program Ending August 31, 2012

The Maine Department of Transportation recently announced that it is ending the popular GO Maine commuter vanpool program. After considerable input from current vanpool riders, it has been decided that the vanpool program will discontinue operation on August 31, 2012.

In a letter to vanpool commuters, MaineDOT Commissioner David Bernhardt said "while transportation funds have helped to support the vanpool program and keep the cost of riding in a vanpool as low as possible, funding for replacement and new vans has been inconsistent."

Existing GO MAINE vanpool riders and drivers will have the option to transition from a state-owned GO MAINE vanpool to a privately-operated third-party vanpool service. It will be up to the riders and drivers of the existing vanpools to work out the details of this new vanpool arrangement with third-party vanpool service providers, although GO MAINE will assist with the initial contact. For vanpool riders who choose not to transition to another van, carpooling may be an option.

GO Maine will continue to offer commuter ride matching services, the Emergency Ride Home Guarantee benefit to private vanpools or vanpools provided by third-party vanpool operators, and employer outreach services.

Commuters who would like to know more about getting into another vanpool can call **GO Maine at (800) 280-7433.**

Request for Transportation Priorities

Every two years, the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) contracts with AVCOG to solicit transportation projects from municipalities and counties. This is your opportunity to let MaineDOT know what your community's transportation needs are. Projects you identify will be forwarded to MaineDOT for consideration in the 2014-2015 Capital Work Plan, which will be published early in 2013.

The MaineDOT Municipal Solicitation package was sent to your municipality during the first week of March. **The deadline to send your community's list of transportation projects to AVCOG is Friday, April 13th**. Responding to this packet is the most effective way to make the MaineDOT aware of your transportation improvement needs.

In addition to project requests, the solicitation package contains information about 4 competitive Quality Community Transportation Programs, including the Safe Routes to Schools and the Transportation Enhancement programs. If you submitted a Quality Community Transportation Programs application previously and your project has not been funded, you should resubmit the application to ensure consideration.

If you have questions about this solicitation, please contact Joan Walton at **jwalton@avcog.org** or 783-9186.

Free Medicine Disposal Day

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity to dispose of expired or unwanted prescriptions, vitamins, veterinary medications, homeopathic treatments, and over the counter drugs.

A partial list of locations to date is shown below. Please check the DEA website (www.dea.gov) for updates. Towns wanting additional publicity may contact us for posters and handouts.

For more information, call AVCOG (783-9186) or Healthy Androscoggin (795-2120).

PARTICIPANTS NAME	COLLECTION SITE	ADDRESS
Androscoggin County		
AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT	AUBURN FIRE DEPARTMENT, CENTRAL STATION	550 MINOT AVENUE
LEWISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	FARWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	110 FARWELL STREET
GREENE - ANDROSCOGGIN SHERIFF'S DEPT	GREENE TOWN OFFICE	220 MAIN STREET
LISBON POLICE DEPARTMENT	LISBON POLICE DEPARTMENT	300 LISBON ST
LIVERMORE FALLS POLICE DEPT	LIVERMORE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT	2 MAIN STREET
MECHANIC FALLS POLICE DEPT	MECHANIC FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT	108 LEWISTON STREET
POLAND - ANDROSCOGGIN SHERIFF'S DEPT	POLAND TOWN OFFICE - PARKING LOT	1231 MAINE ST
SABATTUS POLICE DEPARTMENT	SABATTUS POLICE DEPARTMENT	190 MIDDLE ROAD
TURNER - ANDROSCOGGIN SHERIFF'S DEPT	TURNER TOWN OFFICE - PARKING LOT	11 TURNER CENTER RD
Franklin County		
FARMINGTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	123 COUNTY WAY
JAY POLICE DEPARTMENT	HANNAFORD STORE	MAIN ST
KINGFIELD - CARRABASSETT VALLEY POLICE DEPT	CARRABASSETT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT	9000 MAIN STREET, VILLAGE WEST
RANGELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT	RANGELEY POLICE STATION/TOWN OFFICE BUILDING	15 SCHOOL ST
WILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	WILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	874 MAIN STREET
Oxford County		
BETHEL - OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BETHEL DIV.	ONE PARKWAY
DIXFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	DIXFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT	236 MAIN STREET
FRYEBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT	RITE AID PHARMACY - PARKING LOT	119 BRIDGTON ROAD AT 5 FRYEBURG PLAZA
MEXICO POLICE DEPARTMENT	MEXICO TOWN OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM	134 MAIN STREET
NORWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT	NORWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT	19 DANFORTH STREET
OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT	OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG	701 MAIN ST
PARIS POLICE DEPARTMENT	PARIS POLICE DEPARTMENT	35 MARKET SQUARE
PORTER - OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	SACOPEE VALLEY HEALTH CENTER	70 MAIN ST.
RUMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT	RUMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT	150 RIVER STREET
SOUTH PARIS - OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	26 WESTERN AVENUE

If you do not find a collection site near you, please check back frequently, sites are added every day - *www.dea.gov*

Subdivision Review Workshops

AVCOG is offering its annual workshop series in Subdivision Review for Planning Boards, Appeals Boards, Selectmen, Code Enforcement Officers, and others interested in development review. Workshop sessions will be held from **6:00-8:30 PM** on **Thursday evenings** on May 3 and 10, with an optional session on May 17. They will be held at the Paris Fire Department, 137 Western Avenue, South Paris.

In Session I, John Maloney, Senior Land Use Planner, will review the State Subdivision Law and other laws affecting local subdivision review. This session will also discuss Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law. Session 2 will provide information on the subdivision review criteria. A third optional session will be offered that will work through a subdivision review.

SESSION I **May 3, 2012** **Subdivision Law Update**

SESSION II **May 10, 2012** **Subdivision Criteria**

The session will cover the State subdivision criteria. Presenters will provide information on how to interpret the criteria and what information is needed to make sound decisions on each. Information will be provided on how criteria interrelate.

SESSION III ***May 17, 2012*** **Subdivision Review**

OPTIONAL: Group work to review a proposed subdivision for compliance with the State criteria.

Times will be devoted to answering specific questions in each session. Bring copies of plans that you would like to discuss in subsequent sessions on the first evening or mail them to us beforehand.

The registration fee is $25 for Sessions 1, 2, and Optional Session 3 for municipal representatives from AVCOG-member communities and $50 for all others. Attendees will receive background information on CD and class handouts.

Please pre-register by Thursday, April 26. Please register by returning the registration form and your check (payable to AVCOG) by Thursday, April 26, 2012, to: Sue Martin, AVCOG, 125 Manley Road, Auburn, ME 04210. Or, you may call AVCOG at (207)783-9186 or e-mail smartin@avcog.org.

We will coordinate with the State Planning Office to provide CEOs attending these classes with credit towards recertification. Contact AVCOG (783-9186 or smartin@avcog.org) with any questions.

2012 SUBDIVISION WORKSHOP SERIES

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Or, you may call AVCOG at (207)783-9186 or e-mail smartin@avcog.org.

Attendee #1 _____ Sessions #1 & 2 ___ Optional #3 ___
(Name #2 _____ Sessions #1 & 2 ___ Optional #3 ___
& Title) #3 _____ Sessions #1 & 2 ___ Optional #3 ___

Representing: _____ Fee: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____

List subdivision criteria or topics you would like covered in detail:
_____

MaineDOT's New Highway Corridor Priorities, Customer Service Levels and Project Selection Systems

Highway Corridor Priorities (HCP)
The Maine Department of Transportation is transitioning to a new way of prioritizing state and state aid highways in an effort to get the most value out of every transportation dollar for Maine businesses and travelers. MaineDOT acknowledges that every road is important to someone but due to ongoing fiscal limitations a new system of prioritizing roads with objective, understandable criteria was needed.

MaineDOT gathered and analyzed straightforward, common-sense factors such as the economic importance of the road as determined from input from AVCOG and the other regional Economic Development Districts, the Federal Functional Classification system, Heavy Haul Truck Network, and the amount of relative traffic on the road by region. With this and other data, MaineDOT has classified all 23,142 miles of Maine public highways into six, easy-to-understand priority levels:

- ***Priority 1*** roads include the Maine Turnpike, non-toll Interstate Highways and key principal Arterials like Route 2, Route 4 and Route 202 in the AVCOG region;
- ***Priority 2*** roads are non-interstate, high-value Arterials, such as Route 26 in Oxford Hills, and Routes 4 & 27 north of Farmington;
- ***Priority 3*** roads generally are the remaining Arterials and most significant Major Collector Highways. Examples of Priority 3 roads in the AVCOG region include Route 27 north of Carrabassett Valley, Route 126 and Route 219;
- ***Priority 4*** roads generally are the remainder of the Major Collector Highways, often also part of Maine's unique "state aid" system, in which road responsibilities are shared between the state and municipalities. Examples of Priority 4 roads in the AVCOG region include Routes 106, 142, and 232;
- ***Priority 5*** roads are Minor Collector Highways, almost all on the "state aid" system. Examples of Priority 5 roads in the AVCOG region are East Bethel Road in Bethel, Boothby Road in Livermore and Route 124; and
- ***Priority 6*** roads are Local roads.

Customer Service Levels (CSL's)
The Maine Department of Transportation has established a new system for measuring how the physical condition of a road compares to other roads of the same priority across the state. The Customer Service Levels approach improves transportation decision-making, with:

- More emphasis on safety and customer satisfaction instead of compliance with national design standards;
- Replacement of the old terminology for unbuilt roads (i.e. "Backlog") with objective measures of roadway strength and reliability;
- Outcome-based measures as opposed to output (results vs. number and types of projects);
- Enhanced transparency and accountability due to its simplicity and repeatability; and
- A unified methodology to benchmark current conditions, predict future conditions, examine differing CSL goals by HCP, and estimate costs to achieve them.

Customer Service Levels are engineering-based measurements using existing data on the Safety, Condition and Service of the state's roads. CSL's will be scored on an A-F scale, where A is "excellent", B is "good", C is "fair", D is "poor", and F is "unacceptable."

Continued on back

Individual measures that make up each category are structured as follows:

Safety	Condition	Service
Crash History	Ride Quality	Posted Road
Pavement Rutting	Pavement Condition	Posted Bridge
Paved Roadway Width	Roadway Strength	Congestion
Bridge Reliability	Bridge Condition	-

Currently, MaineDOT is utilizing the Customer Service Levels for road and bridge projects only; it is expected that the CSL's will be expanded to other modes in the future.

Project Selection
Highway Corridor Priority and Customer Service Levels provide a foundation for selecting highway improvement projects and improvements to features along highways including bridges, intersections, guardrail, lighting, etc.

In order to refine the prioritization of projects, MaineDOT will consider the following questions which are presented in no particular order:

- What is the Highway Corridor Priority, where applicable, of the project candidate?
- What is the Customer Service Level, where applicable, of the project candidate?
- Does the potential project address a demonstrated safety issue?
- Does the project represent a public-private or public-public partnership to stretch scarce transportation resources?
- Does the project relate to economic activity and job growth?
- Is the project candidate able to move to construction within the next two years based on potential environmental documentation and permitting?
- Does the potential project preserve the existing transportation system (such as replacing a failing bridge or protecting an already-existing transportation investment)?
- Are there funds restricted to a specific project or is there a federal program that mandates certain types of investment?

Overall goals of this new statewide approach to prioritizing and selecting transportation projects are:

- By 2022, improve all Priority 1 and Priority 2 corridors so that their overall Safety, Condition and Service Customer Service Level equals Fair or better;
- By 2027, improve all Priority 3 corridors so that their overall Safety, Condition and Service Customer Service Level equals Fair or better;
- By 2017, implement a pavement program for all Priority 4 corridors that maintains their ride quality Customer Service Level at Fair or better;
- Continue the light capital paving program on a 7-year cycle for Priority 5 corridors outside Urban Compact Areas; and
- By 2015, develop and implement a similar asset priority and Customer Service Level system of measurement for all major freight and passenger transportation assets owned or supported by MaineDOT, including capital goals.

For more information, please contact Joan Walton (AVCOG) at 207-783-9186 or email jwalton@avcog.org.

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Mark your Calendar…

4/11	Spring General Assembly Meeting and Pre-Meeting Networking Workshop at Hilton Garden Inn starting at 4:00 PM, Auburn Riverwatch
4/12	LATC, 12:00 P.M. @ Auburn City Hall
4/12	ATRC, Technical, 10:00 A.M.
4/16	CLOSED, Patriots Day
4/26	ATRC, Policy, 10:00 A.M.
5/10	LATC, 12:00 P.M.
5/10	ATRC, Technical, 10:00 A.M.
5/24	ATRC, Policy, 10:00 A.M.
6/14	ATRC, Technical, 10:00 A.M.
6/14	LATC, 12:00 P.M.
6/20	Executive Committee, 11:30 A.M.
6/28	ATRC, Policy, 10:00 A.M.
7/04	CLOSED, Independence Day

All meetings are at AVCOG, unless otherwise noted.

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