

PRESS RELEASE: L-A Area Transit Study June Public Zoom Meeting

June 4, 2021 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public feedback needed on recommendations for changes to the citylink bus service

A slate of changes to the citylink bus system, developed as part of the Lewiston-Auburn Area Transit Study, will be presented at a June 23rd Public Zoom Meeting starting at 6 pm. Members can join the meeting at the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484201246?pwd=MEJ1MEowVHhyWkE2dENEcThDNks1dz09>

Links are also available on citylink's [website](#) or the ATRC [website](#).

The meeting is hosted by the City of Lewiston in partnership with the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC). A presentation, including maps of proposed route changes, will outline the recommendations, and the public is encouraged to attend, ask questions and make comments.

ATRC is conducting the study with a goal of improving transit services in the Lewiston-Auburn-Lisbon-Sabattus urban area, which includes the citylink system and Lisbon's Lisbon Connection.

An online survey of area residents late in 2020 garnered close to 500 responses, providing feedback on which service improvements would be most helpful. And, a follow-up public ZOOM meeting in April generated feedback that allowed ATRC to finetune proposed route changes in New Auburn.

Recommendations include:

- Increasing the frequency of service along most-used bus routes in the core areas of Lewiston and Auburn.

- Adding a third transfer location located at Walmart, with more trips between both the Lewiston and Auburn hubs and Walmart.
- Keeping fixed-route bus fares at the current level to promote affordable service.
- Adding more robust demand-response service outside the city centers to increase access to transit. Demand-response service is the type of public transit where an individual calls for a ride to their destination instead of taking a bus along a predetermined route. The fare for a demand-response ride would be \$1.50 for rides scheduled a day in advance and \$2 for rides scheduled the same day. Free transfers from demand-response to fixed-route bus service (the regular bus route) will be available, as will reduced-cost multiple trip passes for those who use demand-response frequently.
- Expanding additional popular services such as extending weekday hours until 8pm, adding weekend service, and including microtransit, would require increased funding and are proposed for the future.
- Some of these changes will be made possible by converting minimally used stretches at the end of bus routes to the more efficient demand-response service.

Jennifer Williams, MPO Transportation Director for ATRC, said that the recommendations also include creating a new Transit District for Lewiston and Auburn, a change that could involve a longer wait before service changes are implemented. She explained, “Creating a Transit District, with a board that would oversee public transit in Lewiston and Auburn, would increase funding security and consistency for the system. This would translate into better service for transit riders. But it likely would take some time to work out the details.” She added that this decision is entirely up to the city councils of the two cities, and she expects much discussion around the issue over the next year.

Maps and information from the April public meeting are available now on the ATRC [website](#). Individuals interested in attending the June 23 meeting may simply [click here](#) at 6 pm. The meeting will conclude by 7:30 pm.

GRAPHIC INCLUDED: Map for proposed bus route with Demand-Response areas

