

## citylinkNews



citylink recorded 381,080 passenger trips for FY2016. Ridership did see a decrease over FY2015's high of 424,652 passenger trips, but is 2% higher than FY2014 ridership. The Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) is working with MaineDOT to purchase two new 12-year buses. LATC has a very old fleet and has stabilized it over the last few

years by purchasing used transit buses. MaineDOT is aware of LATC's aged fleet and made available additional FTA capital funds for the new bus purchase. LATC through the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center contracted with Main Street Connections to conduct a fixed route study update. The study was completed in June 2016. LATC has been able to implement some of the study recommendations.

LATC, the City of Auburn and the Maine Department of Transportation have been working together to build the Downtown Auburn Transportation Center (DATC) in Great Falls Plaza in Auburn. The project design was completed by Casco Bay Engineering (Portland) and Harriman Associates (Auburn). Construction of the Downtown Auburn Transportation Center went out to bid in August 2015 and was awarded to Benchmark Construction (Westbrook). The project was completed and open to the public in October 2016. The project was funded by the Federal Transit Administration, City of Auburn and the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee.



Downtown Auburn Transportation Center

### LATC Committee

**Phil Nadeau, Chair**  
Deputy  
Administrator,  
Lewiston

**Belinda Gerry**  
Citizen At Large,  
Lewiston

**Lucy Bisson**  
Citizen, Lewiston

**Joline Beam**  
Councilor, Lewiston

**Ernestine Gilbert**  
Councilor, Auburn

**Denis D'Auteuil**  
Assistant City  
Manager, Auburn

**Karen Veillieux**  
Admin. Assist.,  
Auburn

[www.purplebus.org](http://www.purplebus.org)

### ATRC Staff

**Jennifer Williams, PE**  
MPO Director

**Jason Ready, PE**  
Engineer/Planner

**Joan Walton, AICP**  
Transportation  
Planner/AVCOG

**Marsha Bennett**  
Transit Planner

## Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center ATRC

Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) is the organization designated by the federal government to carry out transportation planning in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area. The ATRC area includes Auburn, Lewiston, Lisbon and Sabattus. The ATRC is responsible for Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administration planning and programming. It is also responsible for ensuring that the general public has the opportunity to participate in the planning and project funding decision processes.

Every year the ATRC prepares a Transportation Investment Program (TIP) that prioritizes area transportation projects for Federal, State and local funding. It also sponsors and conducts studies, through its biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), to assist in the transportation planning process. These studies have included corridor traffic signal timing improvements, bicycle/pedestrian studies, complete streets manual, and regional transportation modeling.

ATRC is governed by a Policy Committee and Technical Committee. The members of the committees are drawn from municipal officials (both elected and appointed) of the member communities, AVCOG, Maine Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Maine Turnpike Authority. In addition, there are non-voting members on both committees such as the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC), and the Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport.

### ATRC Policy Committee Voting Members

**Ed Barrett**  
**Chair**  
City Administrator,  
Lewiston

**Robert Thompson**  
**Vice Chair**  
Executive Director,  
AVCOG

**Denis D'Auteuil**  
Assistant City Manager,  
Auburn

**Diane Barnes**  
Town Manager,  
Lisbon

**Anthony Ward**  
Town Manager,  
Sabattus

**David Jones**  
Public Works Director,  
Lewiston

**Dan Goyette**  
Director of Public  
Services,  
Auburn

**Darryl Belz**  
MPO Engineer,  
MaineDOT

**Tracey Steuber**  
Economic & Community  
Development Director,  
Lisbon

**Sara Zografos**  
Planner/Agency Liaison,  
Maine Turnpike Authority

**Greg Whitney**  
Finance Director,  
AVCOG



**ATRC Technical Committee Voting Members**

- Dan Goyette, P.E.**  
Chair  
City Engineer, Auburn
- Ryan Leighton**  
Vice Chair  
Town Engineer, Lisbon
- Darryl Belz, P.E.**  
MaineDOT
- Megan Bates**  
Deputy Director of Public Works,  
Lewiston
- Elwood Beal**  
PW Operations Manager,  
Lisbon
- Richard Burnham, P.E.**  
City Engineer,  
Lewiston
- Eric Cousens**  
City Planner,  
Auburn
- Gary Labonte**  
Public Works Foreman,  
Sabattus
- Joan Walton, AICP**  
AVCOG
- Sara Zografos**  
Maine Turnpike Authority

**Activities and Studies**

The ATRC *Complete Streets* study has been completed. Using the existing Lewiston/Auburn Bike/Ped Committee, with members appointed by both communities, the project sought to improve roadways for all users. The study looked at specific corridors in the cities that ATRC has previously identified as deficient for bicycle and pedestrian uses, created a *Best Management Practices* manual that will guide future implementation of the Complete Streets ordinances adopted by each city, and then applied practically what was gathered through the process to determine a solution to crossing Main Street in Lewiston from the Androscoggin Greenway to Simard-Payne Park.

Staff has been working on creating GIS maps for the communities. Most of the maps feature statewide data. Maps include High Crash Locations, Traffic Counts, Turning Movement Counts, Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts, and Vehicle Classification. Staff is working with MaineDOT to map collision diagrams at the High Crash Locations. A map for Sidewalk Pavement Conditions is also being sought.

**Things to look for in 2017**

- ⇒ Expansion and upgrades to the Traffic Signal Management System
- ⇒ Long-Range Transportation Plan
- ⇒ ITS and Traffic Signal Master Plan
- ⇒ Travel Demand Model Update
- ⇒ New TSMS software and server for traffic signals

**Long-Range Planning**

**Transportation Safety Planning** — AVCOG advocates for member municipalities with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) regarding transportation safety issues. The High Crash Location (HCL) at the intersection of Routes 11 & 26 in Mechanic Falls and Poland was reconstructed late in 2016 and a traffic signal will be installed early in 2017. AVCOG entered into a contractual relationship with MaineDOT late in 2016 to analyze and make recommendations for improving conditions at HCLs in the region; this is expected to be a multi-year effort.

**Grant Opportunities** – AVCOG monitors transportation grant programs and informs member municipalities and stakeholders about funding opportunities as they arise. AVCOG notified member municipalities about several grant opportunities from MaineDOT, including free solar-operated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) to increase the visibility of crosswalks, and free road signs promoting the 3-foot separation requirement between motor vehicles and bicycles.

**Active Transportation Planning** – In the past, AVCOG partnered with the Healthy Maine Partnerships and had taken an active role in providing technical assistance to Active Communities Environment Teams (ACETs) in Norway/Paris, Rumford/Mexico and Oxford County with a goal to increase opportunities for physical activity of residents. Reductions in funding have resulted in a reduced role AVCOG plays with



respect to these ACETs. AVCOG assisted the Rumford/Mexico ACET with its efforts to re-establish a non-motorized bridge across the Swift River in Rumford by producing the maps for a Recreational Trails Program grant application. The bridge will connect public schools, recreation facilities, athletic fields, and trails in downtown Rumford and downtown Mexico.

**Traffic Signal Management System**



The Traffic Signal Management System (TSMS) continues to improve and expand. As turning movement count data is collected from signalized intersections using automated collection hardware and existing on-street vehicle detection, improved timing plans for both corridors and individual intersections can be created. Staff has also worked to improve signal timing on Court Street and Sabattus Street.

The traffic signal coordination allows for continuous flow on the corridors during peak hours. The intersections will connect using a fiber optic cable. The controller hardware and bicycle/vehicle detection will be upgraded with other various ADA improvements. An upgrade from the Streetwise TSMS to ATMS.NOW will occur in 2017, allowing for greater management and better operation of the traffic signals.

