

citylinkNews



citylink ridership experienced a significant increase with a high of 372,864 riders for FY14, a 5.7% increase over prior year ridership. The Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) continues to address its need for reliable buses. To address ongoing mechanical issues with the buses, LATC purchased three (3) older, used buses from Portland METRO. These buses provided a much needed back-up to keep all routes

operational. The Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) approved a five (5)-year capital replacement plan aimed at purchasing new and used vehicles to stabilize the fleet.

LATC, the City of Auburn and the Maine Department of Transportation are continuing to work together to build a bus station in Great Falls Plaza in Auburn. The project is funded with Federal Transit Administration funds and local funds from the City of Auburn.

Rail

The Androscoggin, Oxford, Coos Counties Rail Coalition (AOC Coalition) was established in 2013 for the purpose of bringing passenger rail back to Western Maine and Eastern New Hampshire. Members of the AOC Coalition include municipalities and chambers of commerce along the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Rail corridor in Androscoggin, Oxford and Coos counties. AVCOG staff attend AOC Coalition meetings and provide technical support when appropriate.



LATC Committee

Phil Nadeau, Chair

Deputy
Administrator,
Lewiston

Christina Berry

Citizen At Large,
Lewiston

Lucy Bisson

Citizen, Lewiston

Mark Cayer

Councilor, Lewiston

Belinda Gerry

Councilor, Auburn

Howard Kroll

Assistant City
Manager, Auburn

Karen Veillieux

Admin. Assist.,
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ATRC Staff

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Joan Walton, AICP

Transportation
Planner
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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 a portion of 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.

With recent changes from MaineDOT, 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.

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

Dir. Of Public Services,
Auburn

Diane Barnes

Town Manager,
Lisbon

Andrew Gilmore

Town Manager,
Sabattus

David Jones

Public Works Director,
Lewiston

Howard Kroll

City Manager,
Auburn

Duane Scott

Outreach Div. Director
MaineDOT

Tracey Steuber

Econ. Dev. Director,
Lisbon

Sara Zografos

Maine Turnpike
Authority

Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC)

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ATRC Technical Committee Voting Members

Dan Goyette, P.E.
Chair
City Engineer, Auburn

Ryan Leighton
Vice Chair
Town Engineer, Lisbon

Gerry Audibert, P.E.
MaineDOT

Megan Bates
Deputy Director of Public Works,
Lewiston

Elwood Beal
PW Operations Manager,
Lisbon

Richard Burnham
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

ATRC staff have been working closely with City of Auburn staff to evaluate recommendations for future Route 4 projects and to outline steps to implement projects to improve the safety along the Route 4 corridor near Lake Auburn. The Policy Committee has funded projects which will change the lane patterns on Route 4 and make lane improvements at two intersections for safety.

A consultant has been selected for a Complete Streets study for Lewiston and Auburn. Using the existing Lew/Aub Bike/Ped Committee, with members appointed by both communities, the project will look at improving roadways for all users. The study will look at specific corridors in the cities that ATRC has previously identified as deficient for bicycle and pedestrian uses, create a Best Management Practices manual that will guide future implementation of the Complete Streets ordinances adopted by each city, and then apply 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. The study has a project completion date of September, 2015.

Things to look for in 2015

- Expansion and upgrades to the Traffic Signal Management System
- Long -Range Transportation Plan
- New Bus Station in Auburn
- Short Range Transit Study Update
- Complete Streets Study & BMP

Long-Range Planning

Transportation Safety Planning — AVCOG advocates for member municipalities with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) regarding transportation safety issues. There are several High Crash Locations and problem areas in the region that AVCOG staff monitors which MaineDOT is addressing.

Emergency pre-emption — After receiving an inquiry from the town of Poland, AVCOG initiated discussions with the cities of Auburn and Lewiston to expand access to the emergency vehicle pre-emption capabilities of the traffic signals in downtown Auburn and Lewiston. This pre-emption would allow emergency vehicles to interrupt the traffic signal phases so that they can travel through signalized intersections *en route* to the hospitals on green lights.

Rural Transportation Safety Planning — AVCOG was invited by the Maine Department of Transportation to participate in a project of the Federal

Highway Administration’s Office of Safety to identify how rural planning organizations integrate safety in the planning process. AVCOG staff joined planners from seven regional planning agencies, two state DOTs, and three representatives from FHWA in a two-day conference in Washington, D.C. in February. At this conference, the planners helped FHWA and its consultants to understand transportation safety issues and needs from the rural practitioner standpoint. The outcome of this effort was a



technical report (*Integrating Safety in the Rural Transportation Process*) which will assist rural planning agencies with the integration of safety into their transportation planning process. The report provides rural planners with information on the resources, strategies, and ideas for considering safety in their transportation planning processes. The report also provides strategies for states to better assist rural planning agencies in understanding the safety issues in their regions and incorporate solutions through the transportation planning process.

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 adjusted. Staff has also worked to improve signal timing on Minot Avenue and update pedestrian crossing times in downtown Auburn.

A safety project to upgrade the signals on the central portion of Sabattus Street in Lewiston has connected back into the ATRC TSMS server. Staff worked with MaineDOT’s consultants to ensure that the corridor operated successfully once completed. The traffic signal coordination allows for continuous flow on the corridor during peak hours. ATRC has funded a project to complete the remaining inner and outer portions of Sabattus Street. There is also an upcoming project which will connect six downtown Lewiston traffic signals. The intersections will connect using a fiber optic cable. The controller hardware and bicycle/vehicle detection will be upgraded as needed, as well as all ADA improvements.

