

JANUARY 2010

Providing responsive service and leadership to our municipal members and community partners through regional cooperation and collaboration.

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

[Bridgton](#)

[Cape Elizabeth](#)

[Casco](#)

[Chebeague Island](#)

[Cumberland](#)

[Falmouth](#)

[Freeport](#)

[Frye Island](#)

[Gorham](#)

[Gray](#)

[Harrison](#)

[Long Island](#)

[Naples](#)

[New Gloucester](#)

[North Yarmouth](#)

[Portland](#)

[Pownal](#)

[Raymond](#)

[Scarborough](#)

[Sebago](#)

[South Portland](#)

[Standish](#)

[West Bath](#)

[Westbrook](#)

[Windham](#)

[Yarmouth](#)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

[PROP](#)

[RC&D](#)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

[Cumberland County](#)

[Portland Water District](#)

Lakes Region Comprehensive Planning

With the support of the GPCOG Executive Committee, State Planning Office and MaineDOT, GPCOG staff have met with the Town Managers in the Lakes Region to discuss a regional comprehensive planning process for the Sebago Lake/Route 302 region. Given the positive feedback, staff are scheduling presentations to the Lakes Region communities seeking support to begin a regional planning process.

Brownfields Update

In August 2009, GPCOG was awarded a total of \$400,000 in Stimulus funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct environmental assessments on sites in Cumberland County contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum. Although the inventory is countywide, the program will target sites in Portland Harbor, Downtown Bridgton, Gray Village, and Steep Falls Village in Standish. During the fall, staff from GPCOG and Crede Associates were busy with the following activities:

- Hosting the first Brownfields Advisory Committee meeting on November 2
- Participating in the National Brownfields Conference in New Orleans on November 16-18
- Constructing a Brownfields inventory based on windshield surveys of target communities and meetings with municipal officials
- Providing updates to various organizations, including the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, Maine Oil Dealers Association, and Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

To date, three sites have been selected for participation in the program: Bridgton Memorial School, which was built on the site of the Bridgton and Saco River rail yard; town-owned properties on Shaker Road in Gray, one of which was a former gas station; and the former Greater Maine Auto Auction facility on Route 202 in Gray. Selection was based on a variety of factors, including presence of an environmental stigma, property owner participation, and redevelopment potential.

Regional Public Safety Study

Casco, Naples and Raymond have joined forces to explore the feasibility of developing a regional public safety department. Working with GPCOG, a Request for Qualifications was developed for consultant services. Seven firms have submitted proposals. A final decision to move forward with the study is expected to be made by May 2010.

Biofuels Summit a Success

Showcasing groundbreaking biofuel production, [Maine Clean Communities'](#) (MC2) recent Biofuels Summit was well-attended and well-received. Attendees were pleased with the utility and relevance of the presentations, which represented a range of fuels and technologies, all being produced in Maine.

Maine Clean Communities Coordinator [Steve Linnell](#) opened the Summit, discussing the gap between a much-discussed problem in Maine – high gasoline prices – and the much discussed solution – home weatherization. Given that transportation is such a large part of the problem, it needs to be part of the solution, as well. MC² is part of the national Clean Cities network that addresses the transportation problem by promoting alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technology. Since no single alternative is capable of fully replacing petroleum, it is important to develop a diversity of technologies and fuels. Dean Sgouros, Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing at [Maine Standard Biofuels](#) in Portland, presented on closed-loop biodiesel production, focusing on the environmental benefits of biodiesel. With a capacity of one million gallons a year, Maine Standard Biofuels is striving for carbon-neutral, zero-waste production. For more information, visit the Maine Clean Communities page of the GPCOG web site at www.gpcog.org



Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

This year's coastal communities' project involves exploring and developing a relationship with the [CBEP](#). To that end, we have met with CBEP staff to discuss opportunities for collaboration; attended Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) Steering Committee meetings; met with CBEP and the Institute for Civic Leadership to discuss how to move PRWC project forward and the roles of CBEP and GPCOG; and reviewed CBEP 2005 State of the Bay report with a focus on the land use, growth and development portions to prepare recommendations to strengthen the State of the Bay report.

GPCOG to Host Clean Air-Cool Planet Climate Fellow

Clean Air-Cool Planet (CA-CP) is seeking applications for a Climate Fellow who will work with GPCOG throughout the summer of 2010. The major "product" of this Fellowship will be a "draft" Maine Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Handbook that is modeled upon existing NH and CT handbooks.

To view the full job description and application information, [click here](#). Please direct all inquiries regarding the Fellowship to Clean Air-Cool Planet.

We Welcome...

Henry "Hank" Berg, who has been hired as [Casco Bay Lines](#) new General Manager. He is expected to begin on January 18, 2010.

Congratulations

[Carey Kish](#), GO MAINE Program Manager, has been accepted into the Association for Commuter Transportation 2010 TDM Leadership Academy in Washington, DC.

Moving on...

Suzanne McCormick will be leaving [PROP](#), and GPCOG's Executive Committee, to become President and CEO of the [United Way](#) of Greater Portland. Congratulations, Suzanne!

GPCOG "Road Show"

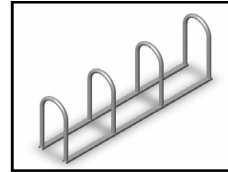
In December, GPCOG staff met with the South Portland City Council in a workshop session to present a Power-Point of GPCOG programs, services and new initiatives. If you would like to schedule a briefing in your community or organization, please contact [Neal Allen](#).

Bike Racks for ME

The MaineDOT and GO MAINE Commuter Connections, in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, support and encourage bicycling as an important mode of transportation. We've created Bike Racks for ME for communities, organizations and workplaces across Maine to help expand bicycle parking opportunities.

The bicycle commuting trend is catching on and the ability to securely park and lock-up a bike is an integral part to bike commuting.

[Click here](#) for the information packet or contact [Erik West](#).



GO MAINE continues to stay ahead of the curve on the use of technology with the re-design of the commuter website, www.gomaine.org; launching of a Facebook fan page at www.facebook.com/gomaine; and creation of a new monthly e-newsletter for its 5,000 program stakeholders.



The next breakfast meeting of Maine Clean Communities will be held on February 3rd at 8:30 a.m. at GPCOG, and will focus on fuel-reduction technology featuring

- Scott Potter, from [IdleRight](#);
- Greg Topjian, from [Energy Xtreme](#); and
- Representatives from Portland and/or Falmouth will talk about their experiences piloting anti-idling technology.

Additionally,

- [Oakhurst Dairy](#) will show its new hybrid delivery truck; and
- Preliminary results from the GPCOG and [Clean Air-Cool Planet's](#) 2007 Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory will be shared.

Visit the GPCOG web site at www.gpcog.org

News from [PACTS](#)

Veterans Memorial Bridge Replacement Project

Three proposals were received for the replacement of the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Reed and Reed partnered with T. Y. Lin and have been tentatively selected for the Bridge replacement project. The official announcement is expected soon with construction activity beginning in early spring.

2010 Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

PACTS recently completed an update of their 1995 regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. Since 1995, awareness has grown about the importance of bicycling and walking for people's health and the livability of our region's communities.

The update includes maps of existing and planned on-road bicycle facilities, trail and pathway networks in the region. There is also a list of important regional initiatives and projects to improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety, to encourage more walking and bicycling, and to improve connections with buses. Visit <http://pactsblog.org/blog/> to see and comment on the Plan. Contact [Paul Niehoff](#) for more information.

Gorham East/West Corridor Study

This is a major land use and transportation study of the corridor – the fastest-growing residential market in Maine – immediately west of Portland. The study's goal is to evaluate all the options and find the right package of alternatives to protect homeowners' quality of life over the long term without adding excess transportation capacity.

The [Maine Turnpike Authority](#) and the [MaineDOT](#) are leading this study effort. For more information, go to <http://www.gorhamcorridor.org/>,