

Lakes Region Transportation Coalition
Meeting Minutes October 29, 2008 – Naples Town Office

Attendance: Neal Allen, GPCOG; Tom Bartell, Town of Windham; Mitch Berkowitz, Town of Bridgton; Mike Corrigan, Bridgton News; Deborah Lee Dagan, Fair Point; Sara Devlin, Maine Turnpike; Doug Fortier, Town of Windham; Derik Goodine, Town of Naples, Jim Krainin; Naples; Carmen Lone, Town of Bridgton; Alan Manoian, Town of Bridgton; Don MacLean, Bridgton; Don MacLean III, LRTV; Scott MacLean, LRTV; Ephrem Paraschak, Town of Denmark; Brad Plante, Town of Harrison; Malory Shaughnessy, Cumberland County; Lisa Villa, Harrison; Bob Vitalius, Fair Point; Bill Whitten, Cumberland County

Minutes: There were no revisions to the June 2008 minutes.

Lakes Region Transit Update Matti Gurney gave the committee history of the proposed bus service. Gurney informed the committee that MaineDOT had withdrawn the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds from the project due to lack of municipal match. Mitch Berkowitz introduced our guests Bob Vitalius and Deborah Lee Dagan both of FairPoint Communications.

Members of the committee discussed corporate donations as a public good, a great marketing tool, and a great opportunity for public/private partnership. Committee members also mentioned that the key contributor would be recognized as a prime sponsor with logos displayed on the bus. Additionally, the committee acknowledged that any contribution to such a service would help reduce the overall carbon footprint in the region, start a trend of change and help out commuters of the region.

Fair Point Communications representatives told the committee that the concept and marketing opportunity were intriguing, but felt that it didn't seem like the service fit their business plan. Fair Point did however, take the information the committee provided them (Windham Portland Commuter Study & Lakes Region Lessons Learned White Paper) and told the committee that they are pleased they were invited to the table and will continue to work with GPCOG and the committee on the project. Fair Point also suggested the committee investigate large employers whose employees are on the bus route.

The committee decided that even though Fair Point Communications could not commit to a contribution at this meeting, it was imperative that the committee continue work on the project. Committee members discussed known large employers but also tasked GPCOG with providing a list of large employers along the bus route for the next meeting. The committee also felt that they need to develop a timeline outlining municipal, county, and federal deadlines – tasked to GPCOG. The committee also requested that municipalities who have secured contributions provide detail to the committee on the status of the funds. Additionally, committee members tasked themselves with identifying potential bus stop locations along the proposed route.

Next Meeting: Bridgton Town office, December 3rd from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.