

Public Health and Transportation Coalition (PHT Coalition)

Meeting Summary

August 12, 2013

1:00-3:00

Greater Portland Council of Governments Conference Center

At today's meeting, the Coalition planned for an upcoming public event featuring Tom Errico, Senior Associate at T.Y. Lin International. In addition, the Coalition identified individuals and groups that should be invited to learn about the connection between health and transportation.

Elizabeth Trice (Convenor), Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Cumberland County

Zoe Miller (Convenor), Director, Healthy Maine Partnership, Healthy Lakes Region, Opportunity Alliance

Sarah Cushman, Director, Safe Routes to Schools

Carl Eppich, Transportation Planner, Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS)

Shane Gallagher, City of Portland, District Public Health Council

Richard Harbison, Greater Portland Council of Governments

Abby King, Community Advocacy Coordinator

Valerie Landry, Facilitator

Paul Niehoff, Senior Transportation Planner, Portland Area Transportation System (PACTS)

Lucie Rioux, Program Director, Healthy Maine Partnership, Rivers Region, Opportunity Alliance

Jim Tasse, Education Director, Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM)

1. Actions

	ITEM	ACTION	PURPOSE	RESP	DATE
1	Forum featuring Tom Errico, October 7, 5:30-7:30	Abby King will prepare a matrix of desired attendees and will prepare invitation and flyer. Additional recruitment to municipal officials and others will be as follows: Zoe Miller – Windham, Bridgton, and Standish Jim Tasse and Lucie Rioux— Gorham Lucie Rioux— Scarborough and Westbrook Elizabeth Trice will notify Cumberland County Commissioners	The event is open to the public and all are welcome. In addition, the Coalition is particularly interested in raising awareness among public officials, e.g., municipal, law enforcement, legislators, and others. It is anticipated that this Forum will be one of a number of efforts to reach these key stakeholders.	Abby King Zoe Miller Elizabeth Trice Jim Tasse Lucie Rioux	By 9/14
2	Sustain Southern Maine Forum in November.	Rick Harbison will share information regarding possible Coalition representation at the Forum. Bicycle Coalition of Maine is planning to attend. Coalition Materials should be available for distribution.	A major PHT objective is to collaborate with other groups and to ensure that the PHT message becomes embedded in major planning projects.	R. Harbison J. Tasse	Before 10/7/13

2. Announcements

- Elizabeth Trice announced that the Maine Association of New Americans and Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) are collaborating to get **bikes and bike education to recent immigrants**. New immigrants who are seeking asylum are not allowed to work or obtain driver's licenses. The objective is to identify individuals in this sector who will be able to train others in bicycle safety. Shannon Belt from Westbrook High School Alternative Learning is providing the bicycles and BCM is responsible for the education effort.
- Sustain Southern Maine (SSM) is hosting a **major forum** in early November; 20 tables have been set aside for model towns and SSM members. PHT members agreed that it would be important to share information about the PHT Coalition at this event.
- The Community Transformation Grant (CTG) **Active Community Environment (ACE) budget and workplan** was circulated by Jim Tasse to the PHT Coalition, which acts as the ACE Advisory Group. The budget and workplan were approved by the Coalition and submitted to Shane Gallagher (CTG Coordinator/City of Portland) who has since sent it to the Oversight Sub-committee for review. The Oversight Sub-committee will meet on August 26, 2013 for the final vote on the budget and workplan before submission to the state CTG Manager.
- The Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) is now developing **Active Community Environment (ACE) teams in York County**, possibly including the towns of Ogunquit, Wells, and Sanford. This effort will be in addition to similar efforts (sponsored by PACTS) in Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach.
- **South Portland Transit Hub** is under development at Ocean Avenue and Thomas Street in Portland, with funds set aside for alternative transportation investments. More information can be obtained by contacting PACTS.
- Jeff Levine, Planning and Urban Development Director, City of Portland, is planning (and seeking resources for) a **bikeshare program** in Portland.
- PACTS is working with **Southern Maine Community College on a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan**. The general purpose is to increase overall system efficiency by encouraging a shift from single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips to other modes such as car pooling, walking, biking, and adjusting the flow of autos during peak times. An array of stakeholders are involved in the process (residents, students, administrators, faculty, etc.), the result of which will be short and long-term goals and strategies.
- PACTS is analyzing the impact of **eliminating four on and off ramps** to improve traffic/pedestrian/bicycle conditions to improve traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle flow in an around the Thompson's Point, Train Station, and downtown.
- Zoe Miller met with Doug Beck (Physical Activity Coordinator, Maine CDC) regarding the **Rural Active Living Assessment (RALA)**. Initially, the assessment will be conducted with Windham, and subsequently with Cape Elizabeth, Standish, and Bridgton.
- Zoe Miller is interested in receiving suggestions on **large indoor spaces** that could be used for public walking.
- Shane Gallagher reported on the City of Portland's Robert Wood Johnson funded project entitled "**Developing a sustainable model for cross-jurisdictional sharing for public health services among Portland, Cumberland County, and the state of Maine.**" Shane indicated that the connection between public health and transportation has been raised in the project discussions; he credits this awareness to a presentation made by the PHT Coalition (Elizabeth Trice and Zoe Miller) to the Cumberland District Public Health Council. More information on the project can be obtained via the following link: http://www.phsharing.org/sites/cumberland_county_me/
- PACTS is working with the Town of **Gorham on a bike-ped plan**.
- Rick Harbison reported on a DOT GIS data set—bicycle level of service—for all state roads e.g., road width, speed, and number of cars. While the accuracy of this information is not yet clear, Rick will determine how this data can be shared with PHT members. In particular, it would be useful for BCM's work in York County.

3. Major Discussion Topics

3.1 October Event with Tom Errico

PHT is sponsoring a forum on October 7 from 5:30 TO 7:30 at USM Gorham (Student Center) for the purpose of raising awareness of Complete Streets and the connection between health and transportation. Tom Errico (traffic engineering expert) is the featured speaker. Much discussion occurred regarding desired audience and outcomes; as well as marketing and outreach strategies. The following decisions were reached:

- While the general public is invited and encouraged to attend, the goal is to include municipal officials (e.g. elected officials, planners, public works, law enforcement), school officials, and legislators. PHT members will reach out specifically to these sectors.
- The event will be hosted by PHT with possible sponsorship assistance from PACTS, Opportunity Alliance, and Cumberland County.

3.2 Outreach

A brief discussion occurred to begin identification of key stakeholders who should be contacted in the months ahead to raise awareness of the connection between health and transportation, and the value of Complete Streets. To that end, the following is a *preliminary* list, to be refined in the weeks ahead. Also, it was noted that identification of these groups does not imply that separate meetings or forums would be scheduled for each. In some instances, the PHT message might be incorporated into existing events or meetings. In other cases, it might involve one-to-one meetings or larger forums.

- DOT engineers
- DOT Bureau of Highway Safety
- Secretary of State – Driver's Education
- Maine Transportation Safety Coalition
- Cumberland County District Attorney
- Law enforcement officers
- Disability rights groups
- Southern Maine Agency on Aging
- AARP
- Hospitals
- Schools
- State Board of Education & Maine Department of Education School Siting & bike/ped amenities construction
- Legislators
- Maine Municipal Association

Possible events that might involve one or more of the above groups:

- Regional pedestrian and bike-ped law enforcement forum (February 2014)
- PACTS Legislators Forum in December

Next Meeting
September 10, 2013 1:00 – 3:00
Greater Portland Council of Governments