

GPCOG Executive Committee

Annual Retreat

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Agenda

In-Person (There will *not* be a remote participation option for the annual retreat)

Location: Merrill Memorial Library, Trustee Conference Room
215 Main Street
Yarmouth

Parking: Please park on the street or at the Yarmouth Town Hall circular front parking lot.
Merrill Memorial Library has limited access to parking.

Dress: We recommend bringing a jacket or sweater, as the rooms may be cool.

Lunch: Lunch will be served.

1. Welcome & Today's Goals

The goals for the annual retreat are:

- Executive Committee members get to know one another and senior GPCOG staff better
- The group is grounded in what GPCOG is seeking to accomplish over the next 2 years
- The Executive Committee provides ideas and guidance on *how* GPCOG might advance selected goals
- The Executive Committee has an opportunity to identify emerging issues and discuss whether and how GPCOG might respond

2. Introductions

Members and staff will meet in small groups to get to know you and your community better.

3. 2-Year Goals

Attachment A contains the goals the Executive Committee adopted in the spring for FY23 and FY24. It also includes Kristina's performance expectations for FY23. We'll briefly review these and staff will ask for ideas and guidance on *how* GPCOG should try to accomplish selected goals.

4. Emerging Issues

Members and staff will meet in small groups to identify emerging issues. The full group will reconvene and discuss whether GPCOG should (a) seek to address any of the identified issues in the next two years and (b) explore any of the identified issues through the strategic planning process, which will begin this coming spring.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 15, 2022 – this meeting, and all the rest, are 12 – 1:30 p.m.
- January 17, 2023
- February 28, 2023
- March 21, 2023
- April 25, 2023
- May 16, 2023

Board and committee members, the public, and other stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the GPCOG Executive Committee calendar at gpcog.org/Calendar.

If you require accommodations to review materials or participate in this meeting (such as captioning or interpreting—at no cost to you), please contact:

(207) 774-9891
transportation@gpcog.org

Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will help us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Attachment A

FY23 & FY24 GPCOG Priorities

1. Attract resources to the region.

- Prioritize transportation projects and work with state and federal partners to fund these priorities.
- Organize regional support for up to three transportation projects for discretionary grant opportunities.
- Serve as the state's implementing partner for economic development, climate mitigation and resilience, housing choice, and broadband investments in the region.
- Ensure rural communities have tools and support they need to access new funding sources for community priorities.

2. Provide value to members.

- Catalyze regional response to up to two major regional challenges or opportunities.
- Build a resilient network of municipalities with regular gatherings of elected officials, municipal managers, transit managers, public works directors, sustainability professionals, economic development directors, and planners and by resuming subregional meetings as the pandemic subsides.

3. Expand transportation and housing choices for our region's people.

- Monitor and annually report on regional housing production, develop one transit-oriented development plan, and provide technical assistance to improve housing and zoning in as many municipalities as resources permit.
- Develop data and analysis to illustrate the impacts and benefits of smart growth strategies and communicate that information to members.
- Adopt Transit Together recommendations that will measurably improve customer experience and system performance.
- Track transit ridership, analyze industry trends and national best practices, and advance regional initiatives and investments to rebuild ridership in the wake of the pandemic

4. Do our region's part in meeting the goals of *Maine Won't Wait*.

- Establish vehicle miles travelled and emission reduction targets through *Connect 2045* and other regional initiatives and work to aligning policies and investments.
- Support development and implementation of up to three climate action plans for communities.
- Identify key areas of regional risk to climate hazards and support development of three priority resilience projects to be developed and designed by members.

5. Support GPCOG's Diversity Equity and Inclusion working group in its efforts to define agency goals and implement strategies to meet them.

6. Identify priorities and implement improvements to GPCOG's internal systems to reduce operational friction, enhance the staff team's wellbeing, and provide information to guide budget and staffing decisions.

Executive Director's FY23 Performance Expectations

Improve public transportation. Continue to build regional collaboration that is both supportive of individual agency needs and results in measurable progress towards a regional system and the investments necessary to build transit ridership. *One metric is to see transit ridership grow at least 5% across the transit network.*

Connect members to larger network. Provide opportunities for members to connect with GPCOG's network of federal and state partners and private sector and non-profit stakeholders, providing access to resources and people for all members, with particular focus on the region's smaller towns. *One metric of success is to provide 4 opportunities per year for cities and towns to meet with members of the Congressional delegation and state agency and legislative leaders.*

Grow COG's advocacy impact. Communicate our regional needs, best practices, and innovative solutions to decisionmakers to support GPCOG's advocacy for regional and state approaches to tackling the significant challenges faced by our communities. *One metric of success is that GPCOG helps catalyze regional response to at least one major regional challenge, likely in FY23 related to the resettlement of asylum seekers in Maine.*

Elevate COG's communications. Enhance the agency's capacity to develop, analyze, and visualize data, tell stories, share the big picture and regional perspective, and compellingly communicate about the choices our region and state face for the future, *with particular focus on the FY23 – FY24 organizational priority to illustrate the impacts and benefits of smart growth.*