

# PACTS Urban Areas

07/12/2023  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
Meeting Agenda

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***In-Person:***

*Greater Portland Council of Governments  
970 Baxter Boulevard, Room 201  
Portland, Maine*

***Remote:***

*Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81034415674>  
Phone: (309) 205-3325—Webinar ID: 810 3441 5674  
Phone participants: \*9 to raise hand; \*6 to unmute*

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This meeting is being recorded and will be made available at [gpcog.org/AgendaCenter](https://gpcog.org/AgendaCenter).

**1. Public Comment 5 minutes**

Members of the public are welcome to provide up to three minutes of public comment.

**2. PACTS Urban Areas Review 55 minutes**

The U.S. Census Bureau delineates urban areas after each decennial census by applying specified criteria to decennial census and other data. For the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau defined urban areas using “densely settled” census blocks that meet minimum housing unit density and/or population density thresholds. This was the first time that housing density was used to define urban areas.

Using the new U.S. Census-defined urban areas as a foundation, PACTS and MaineDOT must reevaluate our urbanized area (referred to as the “capital management area”), which represents the area eligible for PACTS-administered Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding. GPCOG staff and MaineDOT briefly met on June 14, 2023 to review the Census-defined urban areas and discuss the process for updating PACTS’ capital management area. During the review, it was apparent that the Census-defined urban areas often follow roadway centerlines rather than rights-of-way, resulting in a road segment falling half in and half out of the urban area. Adjustments are needed to ensure that PACTS and MaineDOT make smart, coordinated planning and capital management decisions.

Municipalities, MaineDOT, and GPCOG will review the Census-defined areas and make recommended adjustments. The recommendations from the subregional meetings are intended to inform the Policy Board’s decision-making process. Staff anticipate bringing recommendations to the Policy Board this summer.

***Discussion: Confirm municipal support for the subregional adjustments to the Census-defined urban areas.***

## Upcoming Meetings

- Gorham-Westbrook-Portland Rapid Transit Study Project Advisory Group—July 13, 2023, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- PACTS Policy Board—July 27, 2023, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- PACTS Regional Transportation Advisory Committee—August 1, 2023, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Board and committee members, the public, and other stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the PACTS calendar at [gpcog.org/Calendar](https://gpcog.org/Calendar).

**2. [PACTS Urban Areas Review]**