The Stupendous Tournament of Transit
Wait, what?

• Friday, June 14, 2019
• Kickoff at Saco Transportation Center
• 7 teams with different “identities”
• Each team to ride at least 3 different services
• Grand Finale and debrief at Portland Media Center
Who got to play?

- Staff from all 7 transit agencies
- Biddeford-Saco-Old Orchard Beach Transit Committee
- Falmouth, Gorham, Saco, Scarborough, Westbrook Councils
- Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Saco Staff
- GO Maine
- Maine Turnpike Authority
- Portland Downtown
- Visit Portland
Sounds fun, but what was the point?

• Experience regional transit travel firsthand
• Work together, facilitate future teamwork
• Engage with other transit passengers
• Raise the profile of transit
• Fun
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Local officials get schooled in southern Maine’s public transit woes

Regional officials participating in the ‘Stupendous Tournament of Transit’ get a firsthand look at the challenges facing commuters who rely on public transportation.

By EDWARD D. MURPHY STAFF WRITER

'Stupendous Tournament of Transit' participants savor public transportation journey

Event intended to familiarize officials with available systems in region

June 15, 2019

By ED PIERCE
Executive Editor
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Did we learn anything? (What worked well?)

- We *can* navigate the region by transit.
- Most drivers are friendly and helpful.
- Transportation apps are useful and well-utilized.
- Most vehicles are clean and comfortable.
- Lots of people ride transit and are happy with it.
Did we learn anything? (What was challenging?)

- Drivers don’t consistently announce stops.
- Long wait times (2+ hours) between buses.
- Drivers don’t know other systems.
- Signage isn’t uniform; can be hard to find bus stops.
- Tough not to have one regional transit brochure/guide/fare structure/map/website that’s easy-to-navigate and mobile-friendly.
Did we learn anything? (How make seamless?)

- Trip planning for all systems (e.g. Google Transit)
- Increased frequency of trips
- Better communication between systems
- Longer service hours
- Longer office hours
- A unified transit pass that’s electronic
- One system
“That was a phenomenal event. Thank you [for] putting that together. I thought I was awake, but my eyes are now wide open.”
Now what?

• Keep cities, towns, stakeholders engaged in regional transit planning.

• Work with transit agencies to implement top recommendations from *Moving Southern Maine Forward*:
  • Improve connections between routes and schedules.
  • Increase awareness of options with a dedicated website and improved apps.

• Be prepared for funding opportunities.
Next Tournament?