



Regional Voice Committee Agenda

September 9, 2019

8:00 to 9:30 am at GPCOG Office

970 Baxter Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Portland Maine

1. Welcome and introductions.

2. Accept minutes of 4-24-19 meeting.

3. Agenda review and meeting outcomes.

We'll briefly review the agenda and summarize today's meeting outcomes:

- Recommend GPCOG priorities for 2020 legislative session
- Discuss grass roots engagement on priority issues
- Set meeting dates for FY 2019-20

4. Recommend GPCOG priorities for 2020 legislative session. (45 minutes)

This year we've received dozens and dozens of policy initiative suggestions from GPCOG members. From those ideas staff have identified three GPCOG priority areas for 2020 that tie back directly to the top issues the Committee has already identified in our [Roadmap to Prosperity](#) and speak directly to the most pressing challenges facing our region today:

- Greater funding for regional transportation priorities, especially considering the region's identified investment needs in roads, bridges, multi-modal and public transportation;
- More state support for expanded housing choices, especially for low- and middle-income households. Our region's current and future economy needs more workforce housing, and many people in our region need expanded housing choices in order to preserve and sustain our communities; and
- More focused economic development efforts for parts of our region that need investment and jobs the most, especially considering the bond proposals that were not sent out to the voters by legislators last month.

Specific details for achieving these outcomes include:

- Engagement with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation’s task force study of transportation revenue options. The study will look at alternative funding options for all aspects of transportation;
- Working directly with the Commissioner of Transportation to advance regional transportation funding opportunities, especially where the Mills Administration focuses on their priorities around energy and public transportation;
- Support for [LD 1645](#), *An Act To Create Affordable Workforce and Senior Housing and Preserve Affordable Rural Housing*. The bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table after receiving bi-partisan support in the Labor and Housing Committee. It creates a state level low income housing tax credit;
- Continued support for new state investments in broadband expansion to rural areas (including those in our region), as well as other state infrastructure investments in support of job and workforce growth.

No later than September 27th, 2019 lawmakers will submit bills for consideration in the 2020 legislative session. 2020 is a short session ending in April, limited to emergency legislation and supplemental budget issues. But there certainly will be opportunities to push these priority ideas into action at the State House, and in our communities.

Outcome: Review, amend as needed and recommend proposed 2020 legislative priorities for GPCOG. At their meeting on September 11th the GPCOG Executive Committee will review the recommendations of the Regional Voice Committee and take final action on legislative priorities for 2020.

5. Grass roots engagement on priority issues. (30 minutes).

Committee members will have the opportunity to discuss how they and their fellow elected officials can best support the priority outcomes identified by the Committee before and during the 2020 legislative session.

Outcome: Define steps that members will take in support of 2020 legislative priorities.

6. RVC meetings for 2019-2020. (10 minutes)

We’ll take a few minutes to discuss frequency and time/day of week for RVC meetings this fall, winter and next spring.

Outcome: Set schedule for future RVC meetings.

7. Adjourn at 9:30 am.