



## Public Transportation in the PACTS Region

There are 7 transit agencies in the Greater Portland region, serving from Brunswick to Saco, east to the Casco Bay islands, and west to Sebago Lake. We have 1 ferry, 1 train, 3 bus agencies, and 2 paratransit agencies.

In 2017, the region’s seven transit providers provided a total of nearly 4.3 million unlinked passenger trips, which counts the number of times a passenger boards a transit vehicle, had operating expenses totaling over \$45 million, and generated over \$14 million in fare revenues.

| Transit Provider                              | Annual Unlinked Trips | Operating Expenses | Fare Revenues |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Casco Bay Lines                               | 1,086,449             | \$6,198,451        | \$2,629,974   |
| Greater Portland Transit District             | 1,850,686             | \$8,117,917        | \$1,942,610   |
| Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority | 511,422               | \$21,796,364       | \$8,882,104   |
| Regional Transportation Program (RTP)         | 98,793                | \$2,271,415        | \$111,029     |
| Shuttlebus-Zoom                               | 332,849               | \$2,547,389        | \$436,767     |
| South Portland Bus Service                    | 270,930               | \$1,290,737        | \$239,547     |
| York County Community Action Corporation      | 147,854               | \$3,035,964        | \$64,720      |

In December 2017, PACTS adopted a 6-year plan focused on improving services for transit customers. The Plan, *Moving Southern Maine Forward*, detailed 13 recommendations, two of which are advancing in 2019 as key focus areas for implementation:

1. improve connections between routes and schedules, and
2. increase awareness of options with a dedicated website and improved apps.

PACTS programs Federal Transit Administration funds to eligible public transportation projects within the region, which includes 18 communities (Arundel, Biddeford, Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Gorham, North Yarmouth, Old Orchard Beach, Portland, Raymond, Saco, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, Westbrook, Windham, and Yarmouth).

For 2016 through 2022, PACTS anticipates programming between \$11 and \$19 million annually in transit funds. About \$10M in annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds come to the PACTS region for Urbanized Area Formula Program 5307 funds, for which all PACTS transit agencies are eligible; another \$8M is for state of good repair for the ferry and train. The Transit Committee “splits” up these funds in

a way that meets FTA requirements and addresses the collective priorities of the region's transit agencies. PACTS has a Six Year Capital and Operating Plan (SYCOP) that outlines anticipated capital, operating, ADA-paratransit and planning expenses for the next six years. The projects listed in the first four years of the Plan are added to the PACTS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the MaineDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) through the amendment process or through the annual TIP and STIP production process each January. A fundamental principle in the SYCOP is to maintain the basic needs for all agencies to keep their services operating at current levels safely and reliably, supporting the "legacy system".

However, in recent years there have been notable expansions in service. The train is now serving Brunswick with 5 roundtrips to Boston each weekday. Metro has expanded to Brunswick and out to Gorham. The South Portland Bus now offers Sunday service. And, the Lakes Region Explorer, operated by RTP, offers service between Portland and Bridgton.