

THRIVING COMMUNITIES: MIDCOAST SITE VISIT

To kick off the [Thriving Communities Program](#) technical assistance efforts, on Monday, September 30, and Tuesday, October 1, staff from Midcoast Council of Governments, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, MidCoast Public Transportation, RCAP Solutions, and NADO completed a two-day event consisting of public meetings and a tour of the Midcoast region for the out-of-state capacity building team.

Public Input Favors Rural Transit Feasibility Study

Participants in the community meetings were asked to provide feedback on and rank transportation priorities in the Midcoast for the next 2-3 years. The groups overwhelmingly supported a rural transit feasibility study as the top need.

#1 Priority : Rural Transit Feasibility Study

#2 Priority: Addressing Traffic Pinch Points

#3 Priority: Bike/pedestrian Connectivity



Stakeholders discuss transportation needs at a community meeting at Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

4

Stakeholder Meetings

MCOG and LCRPC convened transportation stakeholders for four meetings to gather input: two focus groups assembling municipal staff and transportation professionals and two community meetings bringing in citizens and non-profit organization leaders.

43

Total Participants

Stakeholders included staff from Bath Iron Works, United Way of Midcoast, Penquis CAP, The Brunswick-Bath Chamber of Commerce, the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, municipal officials, bicycle and pedestrian committee members, and more

561

Miles Traveled

A tour for the external capacity building team covered Brunswick through Searsport. Key points were Cook's Corner, the Knox County Regional Airport, Rockland Harbor Park, the Downtowns of Bath, Wiscasset, Damariscotta, Brooks Village Center, Camden, and Belfast, and the Searsport Town Wharf.

Tour of the Midcoast Highlights Transportation Challenges

The tour gave a chance for the out-of-state capacity building team to experience the nuances of transportation in the region and contextualize our region's transportation challenges including Route 1 traffic congestion, pressures of tourism, as well as the limited connectivity of peninsula and island communities.

The tour was organized around 4 function groups representing the different transportation needs in the Midcoast: Bath, Brunswick, Topsham; Coastal Route 1; peninsula and islands; inland communities.



Julie Hashem, Rockland Community Development Director, explains plans to redevelop Rockland's Downtown Waterfront for resilience -- and its importance for multimodal transportation access to and from Rockland Harbor.

