

Public Health and Transportation Coalition (PHT Coalition)
 Meeting Summary
 July 8, 2013
 1:00-3:00
 Greater Portland Council of Governments Conference Center

At today's meeting, the Coalition considered its upcoming work plan, and specifically whether to continue with the major objectives outlined in the 2012 Mission and Work Plan, and how best to incorporate and add value to major initiatives such as Safe Routes to Schools.

Elizabeth Trice (Convenor), Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, Cumberland County
Zoe Miller (Convenor), Director, Healthy Maine Partnership, Healthy Lakes Region
Sarah Cushman, Director, Safe Routes to Schools
Carl Eppich, Transportation Planner, Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System
Shane Gallagher, City of Portland, District Public Health Council
Abby King, Community Advocacy Coordinator
Valerie Landry, Facilitator
Paul Niehoff, Senior Transportation Planner, Portland Area Transportation System
Jim Tasse, Education Director, Bicycle Coalition of Maine

1. Actions

	ITEM	ACTION	PURPOSE	RESP	DATE
1	Community Transformation Grant (CTG) 3-Year Work Plan	Jim Tasse will send the draft work plan to the PHT Coalition members for review and comment. If all are in agreement, the work plan can be approved via email. If needed, a conference call will be scheduled to discuss.	The PHT Coalition plays and advisory role to the CTG grant related to Active Community Environment (ACE). Thus, the Coalition is responsible for reviewing the ACE Work Plan and reporting the results to the CTG Oversight Committee via Shane Gallagher.	J. Tasse S. Gallagher	By 7/26/13
2	Plan initial Forum	Jim Tasse, Elizabeth Trice, Zoe Miller and other interested PHT members will recommend the elements of a forum including purpose, desired audience, speaker, and location.	A major PHT objective is to build awareness among decision-makers and the general public regarding Complete Streets and related initiatives.	J. Tasse E. Trice Z. Miller	Before 8/12/13
3	Plan 3 Forums per year that appeal to targeted audiences.	Determine key audiences and messages and make recommendations to the Coalition for upcoming Forums.	Part of the PHIT purpose is to make it easier for coalition members to achieve their missions; this involves increasing awareness about the link between public health and transportation among key decision makers and the general public.	TBD	On or before 9/30/13

2. Announcements

- Elizabeth Trice announced the formation of a national initiative, *Civic Data Challenge*, by the National Conference on Citizenship. According to its website, "Challenge participants will be provided civic health data, as well as data on public health, public safety, education, and economic vitality. Participants will analyze the data, identify connections

and correlations, and create visual representations to showcase their findings. These representations may include infographics, apps, animations, videos, or other innovations. Judges will evaluate entries based on the quality of the analysis and design, the compelling nature of the finding, and the utility of the product. Winners will be chosen in the categories of health, public safety, education, economy, and "Best in Show." Additional information can be obtained via the following link: <http://ncoc.net/CDC>

- Carl Eppich announced that the PACTS Draft Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2014-2017 is available for public comment. The draft can be viewed via the PACTS website at: <http://www.pactsplan.org/>

3. Major Updates

Jim Tasse announced that LD 1460, *A Bill To Revise Maine Bicycle Law*, was enacted by the state legislature. This law considerably strengthens bicycle safety laws. Major provisions include:

- The operator of the bicycle determines where it is safest and most "practicable" to ride on a roadway.
- A collision of a passing car with a bicycle is "prima facie" evidence of a violation of the three-foot law.
- Cars may not make turns in front of bicycles when doing so interferes with the safe and legal operation of a bicycle.

The actual language of this newly enacted legislation can be seen at the BCM website: <http://www.bikemaine.org/>

Jim Tasse also briefed the Coalition on the failed legislation regarding establishing a Complete Streets study commission. Instead, the Department of Transportation has been in discussion with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and others regarding reviewing current Complete Street policies and how to incorporate public input. The Coalition remains very interested in this initiative as it is central to the PHT mission. Jim Tasse will keep the Coalition informed regarding next steps.

4. Discussion

Considerable discussion occurred regarding how best to advance the PHT mission. Members described the following benefits of the group:

- Current size enables relationship building among members
- Offers a technical advisory body
- Provides forum for like-minded professionals to gain and share information
- No other group provides this cross-sector opportunity
- Mission remains viable

Potential areas of improvement:

- Add members from "Let's Go"
- Add members from law enforcement
- Hold fewer meetings with more "juicy" agendas that would be of interest to a wider group of stakeholders
- Use the current core group as a steering committee

There was general consensus that the Coalition could assist individual members, such as a regional approach to "Safe Routes to Schools," without making major changes in the PHT mission. Thus, a regional approach to Safe Routes will continue to be a PHT topic over the next 6-12 months. In addition, the Coalition will make concrete plans to build awareness among decision makers and the general public to assist Coalition members who are working "on the ground."

Next Meeting
August 12, 2013 1:00 – 3:00
Greater Portland Council of Governments