

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
S.P. 592 - L.D. 1451

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Establish the Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility

Sec. 1. Establish Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall establish the Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility, referred to in this resolve as "the working group."

Sec. 2. Members; selection of chair and vice-chair. Resolved: That the working group is composed of the following members:

1. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;
2. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
3. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
4. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
5. One member from the Maine Office of Community Affairs, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services;
6. One member who is a representative of a statewide organization advocating for older adults, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging;
7. One member who is a representative of an organization representing persons with disabilities, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging;
8. One member who is a representative of a statewide nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of persons with low incomes, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging;

9. One member who is a representative from a statewide association of public transit providers, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging;

10. One member with lived experience with the Department of Health and Human Services' nonemergency transportation program, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging;

11. One member who is a representative of a statewide coalition focused on expanding transportation access, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging; and

12. One member who is a representative of a youth-led organization, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Moving Maine Network, the Maine Transit Association and the Maine Council on Aging.

The working group shall select a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

Sec. 3. Duties; implementation plan. Resolved: That the working group shall develop an implementation plan that includes a timeline, a budget and a staffing plan and a detailed work plan to:

1. Establish a mobility management approach among state agencies to increase efficiency, accessibility and sustainability of transportation across the State. The working group shall examine the creation of mobility management hubs and improving transportation for populations experiencing transportation insecurity. For the purposes of this resolve, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Mobility management" means a collaborative approach for managing and delivering coordinated transportation services to persons, especially nondrivers, including older adults, persons with disabilities and persons with low incomes, and that focuses on meeting persons' needs through a wide range of transportation options and service providers and focuses on coordinating these services and providers to achieve a more efficient transportation service delivery system.

B. "Mobility management hub" means a program that provides capacity for coordination between multiple community providers and organizations to support persons in accessing transportation supports and services and is designed to be welcoming and accessible to persons of all mobility needs.

C. "Populations experiencing transportation insecurity" means groups facing financial, systemic and relational barriers that contribute to the barriers to accessing needed services or destinations comfortably, conveniently and affordably;

2. Build interagency coordination between the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and other state agencies as determined relevant to increase efficiency and coordination of transportation funding; and

3. Use federal guidance and models from other jurisdictions to remove barriers to and to develop methods of cost sharing between federal and state programs to improve access to transportation across the State.

Sec. 4. Development of implementation plan. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation and the working group, in developing the implementation plan under section 3, shall:

1. Review best practices in other states and jurisdictions, such as the 2023 "Would a System of Regional Mobility Managers Benefit Massachusetts?" study from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;

2. Use the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration's 2023-2026 Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Strategic Plan and the Department of Transportation's Maine Strategic Transit Plan 2025 to identify mobility management efforts to meet the needs in the State;

3. Identify the regional structure and services that would be offered under a mobility management program;

4. Determine the level of funding needed to sustainably operate a mobility management program; and

5. Identify additional funding mechanisms, including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration formula grants under 49 United States Code, Sections 5310 and 5311.

The Department of Transportation may organize members of the working group into subgroups and hire consultants for the development of the implementation plan under section 3.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation, on behalf of the working group, shall submit a report with the implementation plan developed under section 3, including any necessary legislation and estimated appropriations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by February 1, 2026. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.