

Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems

November 25, 2019

Brief Summary of Discussion from 10/24/2019

(see BRC webpage for full presentations and materials)

The last meeting, held at Central Maine Community College in Auburn, began with a presentation on Mileage Based User Fees by Dr. Patricia Hendron of the I-95 Corridor Coalition.

The Commission then heard from two presenters who were invited to speak, Brian Bouchard, the President of H.O. Bouchard, who provided a business prospective, and Sandy Buchanan, the President of Maine Transit Association, who discussed public transportation.

The Commission also received a handout summarizing responses to information requests from the October 1st meeting, and heard from the Department of Transportation regarding additional information requests.

A work session comprised the final portion of the meeting, during which commission members began to discuss the funding need and possible solutions. A brief list of topics discussed is provided below:

- Scope of the funding shortfall: \$200 - \$300 million
- Extent to which the state should continue to rely on bonding
- Where is the money going to come from?
 - Gas tax
 - Auto Sales Tax
 - Reallocation of money from other sources
 - Tolling
- Short vs long term solutions
- Sustainable and/or multi-pronged approaches
- Different tools for different modes of transportation
- Traffic Demand Management