

**Testimony in Support of LD 1451 – An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

Senators, Representatives, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of **LD 1451 – An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation**.

In 2023, the State of Maine invested over **\$206 million** in community transportation. This investment helped older adults, people with disabilities, individuals with low incomes, and others who are not driving themselves get to essential services and destinations. These funds came from multiple sources:

- **\$123 million** supported public transportation, including federal, state, and local contributions,
- **\$73 million** funded Non-Emergency Medical Transportation through MaineCare, and
- **\$10 million** came from the Maine Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services for specialized transportation services.

Despite this substantial investment, **40% of Maine adults report experiencing transportation insecurity**—that is, they cannot access needed services or destinations comfortably, conveniently, or affordably. This signals that while we are investing heavily, our system is not working efficiently or equitably for all Mainers.

Coordination is the answer—and LD 1451 is the tool to get us there.

LD 1451 will:

- Advance **state-level interdepartmental coordination**, as recommended by the **2023–2026 Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Strategic Plan** and Maine DOT’s **2023 Strategic Transit Plan**.
- Support the development of **regional Mobility Management Hubs**, expanding on successful models already in place, and
- Position Maine to **leverage additional federal funds** currently being left on the table.

This approach is backed by national leaders. In their **2024 Medicaid Transportation Coverage & Coordination Fact Sheet**, the **U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration** and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** affirm that coordination is key to improving access, reducing costs, and achieving better health outcomes.

Here’s why coordination matters:

- **It saves money.** Our current fragmented system results in redundant trips, overlapping contracts, and unnecessary administrative costs. Coordination reduces per-trip costs and improves service efficiency.
- **It leverages more investment.** Mobility Management strategies bring partners together to identify community needs and align resources—from federal grants to local volunteer driver programs.
- **It improves lives.** In regions with strong coordination, people are more likely to attend medical appointments, maintain employment, and stay connected to their communities.

The tools are available. **Cost-sharing models** for splitting payments between agencies already exist and are in use in other states. **Community organizations and transportation stakeholders in Maine are ready.** They support regional Mobility Management Hubs—a scalable, low-cost solution to serve all regions of our state.

LD 1451 is a smart, forward-thinking policy that will make our transportation dollars go further and help ensure that every Mainer—regardless of age, ability, or income—can get where they need to go.

I urge you to support this important legislation and help Maine take the next step toward a more coordinated, efficient, and people-centered community transportation system.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Maine’s communities.

Sincerely,

Angela Fileccia, LCSW
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Penquis Board Member
Orono, Maine