

**LD 1451 An Act to Advance Coordination of Community Transportation**

**Testimony in Support**

**April 23, 2025**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

My name is Carter Friend, Chief Executive Officer of York County Community Action Corporation. YCCAC supports LD 1451 and appreciates Senator Tipping and the other cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

YCCAC's mission is to ensure that all people in York County thrive. We work with our partners to meet urgent needs, create opportunities to succeed, promote well-being, and advocate for just policies and practices.

YCCAC is both a Community Action Agency and a Community Health Center, and we provide a broad range of services including Head Start and Early Head Start, WIC nutrition and education, housing counseling, foreclosure prevention, fuel assistance, weatherization, outreach and social work and financial education. At Nasson Health Care, we also operate a federally-qualified health center providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care.

We are also one of eight designated Regional Transportation Providers in the state, and provide services under contract to MaineDOT, MaineDHHS and the Maine Department of Education.

LD 1451 would strengthen coordination between funding agencies and make more efficient use of current resources. Maine spends about \$206 million each year on community transportation through several different departments, and better coordination between these departments will improve services for our clients, reduce administrative burden and save money. Several states, including New Hampshire, have successfully implemented similar strategies – a statewide coordinating council and a regional mobility managers program.

Improving coordination between agencies is also the number one recommendation from MaineDOT's State Transit Plan, completed in 2023. For residents looking for help with transportation, navigating the available transportation options can be a very daunting task, with several different calls needed prior to finding the right fit for their trip need. Better coordination between agencies and providers is needed to support our clients.

The concept of mobility management looks beyond just a single transportation service or solution, and focuses on a "family of services" philosophy that can offer a range of transportation options to meet a wide array of community demographics and needs. Mobility management begins with a community vision in which the entire transportation network (including public transit, private operators, and volunteer driving programs) work

together with customers and stakeholders to deliver coordinated transportation options that best meet regional and community needs.

On the Federal level, both the Federal Transit Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services encourage coordination and partnerships between state agencies which fund transportation. In guidance provided in 2024, they state that coordination is key to ensuring individuals can reach the medical and other services they need.

Administratively, transit providers have to contend with several different requirements for similar types of service depending on the state agency administering the program. For example, we have different driver background check requirements for contracts – requiring us to conduct two separate checks, even though one is stricter and more detailed than the other. There are also different driver training requirements depending on the funding source and contract, and different trip reimbursement rates for providing our services.

We urge you to support LD 1451, and improve coordination of transportation services for Maine residents.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you do every day on behalf of Mainers.

Carter Friend  
CEO, York County Community Action