KACTS
KITTERY AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
for the Kittery Urbanized Area

KACTS Members:

Berwick

Eliot

Kittery

South Berwick

York

Maine Turnpike Authority

MaineDOT

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

Public Transportation Providers

March 24, 2023

Senator Ben Chipman Representative
Lynne Williams
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
State House Room 126
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Public Transportation Funding in LD 258, Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and LD 259, Highway Fund for Fiscal Years 2024-2025

Dear Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

On behalf of the Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System (KACTS), I am writing in support of the Maine Transit Association's request for increased state funding for ongoing public transportation operations.

Pandemic impacts to transit ridership have been significant in Maine. With federal COVID relief funding ending later this year, Maine's transit agencies will need to find replacement funds to continue to provide this essential service in our communities. Relative to other states, Maine's state contribution to public transportation is low and has been historically flat for the last five years even though operating costs continue to rise.

York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) is a valued partner to KACTS, serving as a member of the Policy Committee, and actively partnering on local and regional grant efforts to bring more resources to transit. YCCAC provides reliable transit services to communities throughout York County, serving over 200,000 residents using eight different flex-routes and demand response services. These services provide an essential link to regional shopping, employment, and medical appointments for many residents, and play an essential role in supporting and fueling economic development opportunities for communities throughout the region.

Sincerely.

Stephanie Carver
Transportation Director