

Meeting Minutes

Transportation Working Group – Maine Climate Council

Meeting details: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 1pm – 4pm, hybrid meeting

1) Welcome

Meeting Purpose: 1) to review and integrate preliminary findings from the Mitchell Center’s engagement with priority populations 2) finalize the recommendations and actions.

2) Mitchell Center Presentation on Priority Population Outreach

The Mitchell Center has been engaging with Priority Populations to ensure the populations in Maine most impacted by climate change are aware of and have the opportunity to influence State climate programs and policies. The Mitchell Center’s Team presented on the 1st round of engagement with Priority Populations and Community Based Organizations. The Mitchell Center will continue engagement into the Summer.

See the accompanying PPT presentation for more information.

3) Discussion on the Mitchell Center’s work

The TWG members were asked to write down key takeaways from the presentation that they don’t want to forget, as the focus shifts into reviewing the proposed recommendations and actions.

The TWG members provided the following key takeaways:

- Lots of short mileage trips
- Perception around the lack of charging with EVs
- More room for education around EVs
- Increasing education and outreach through social media
- The length of trip and if it was limited because of the options they had
- The lack of trust and interest in EVs
- Important to focus on the barriers to transit
- Trip distance and barriers
- GoMaine barriers
- Lack of trust in EVs informs the need for strong outreach and education

4) Review of Materials

The TWG spent 10 minutes reviewing the clean and tracked changes version of the TWG proposed recommendations and actions.

5) Feedback

The TWG Members provided the following feedback on the proposed recommendations and actions:

- On the EV and VMT section, add “service providers and trusted community institutions.”
- A bullet was added on expanding e-bike rebates. TWG Members agreed with the addition, but a question was raised on how to ensure that people who are getting the e-bikes are keeping them.
- Integrate transit routes and amenities (e.g. shelters, bike racks, transit, schedule boards) with Park and Rides. Increase Park and Rides in Rural areas.
- Reference the Maine State Rail Plan in the EV and MHDV sections of the proposed recommendations and actions.
- Under the implementation column on EVs, remove the qualification “single family homes.”
- Discussion around adding an opt-in program to measure how much plug-in hybrids are used for electricity. TWG Members agreed to support further research on the use of plug in-hybrids.
- A question was raised on whether the Climate Council should consider a broader range of policies.
- Add more language on superusers in the EV section.
- In the EV section, improve language around getting EVs in the hands of rural drivers.
- Change the wording on GHG emissions to “for transportation projects adding new capacity, mitigate potential GHG increases by investing in modes, projects and/or programs that offset those emissions.”
- Instead of “adopt recommendations from the MHDR”, use the language “build upon.”
- Fix the citation to LD122.
- Education should come first in the EV section, and GoMaine should be added to awareness and education based on the Priority Population presentation.
- Adding microtransit services, creating and implementing policies that will increase the safety of bikers, pedestrians: Vision Zero, Complete Streets.

Public comment:

- How are the emissions from cruise ships being considered?
- Consider SkyWay as a mode of transportation.

6) Wrap-up and Next Steps

The deliverable template is due June 5th. The Climate Council meets on June 18, where the TWG Co-Chairs will be presenting.