Equity, Access, and Connectivity: Common Threads in Transportation and Smart & Connected Infrastructure

Grow Smart Maine Summit 2019
Today’s agenda

● Introduction & Review of Concepts
  ○ Kate O’Brien, Catalyst Collaboratives

● About the Inclusive Transportation Planning project
  ○ Zoe Miller, Greater Portland Council of Governments
  ○ Mireille Kabongo, Mobility Liaison

● About the Smart Communities Maine project
  ○ Andrew Butcher, Fourth Economy
  ○ Amy Smith, Healthy Homeworks

● Q&A/Discussion
What do we mean when we say “equity” and “inclusion”?
Equality
Everyone benefits from the same supports. (Assumes everyone starts in the same place.)

Equity
Everyone benefits from getting the supports they need. (Meet you where you are.)

Inclusion
Everyone benefits because the barrier(s) that cause the inequity have been removed.
INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECT

Engaging underrepresented communities in building a more inclusive transportation system

GROW SMART MAINE SUMMIT 2019
- GPCOG is the regional planning council for most of Cumberland County
- PACTS is the federally-mandated metropolitan planning organization (MPO)
- GPCOG staffs PACTS and supports transportation planning in non-PACTS towns
ACCESS & MOBILITY INITIATIVE

Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

SOUTHERN MAINE MOBILITY GUIDE
A Resource Guide for Transportation Options in Cumberland and York County, Maine

Mobility Liaisons

Transportation & Community Well-Being Network
INCLUSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROJECT

Phase I: Starting Off

- Identify systemic ways to actively and consistently include older adults, people with disabilities, and people of color in the regional transportation planning and decision-making process.

- Secure support for Inclusive Transportation Planning strategies from MPO leadership.
Representative Steering Committee using inclusive practices

Focus groups, survey, and workshops engaged over 400 stakeholders

PACTS approved recommendations to inform Public Involvement Plan Update

Received $75,000 in additional funding from Transit Planning 4 All
Objective 1 - Develop and Disseminate an Inclusive Engagement Toolkit.

Objective 2 – Develop and Pilot the Community Transportation Leaders (CTL) training program.
Inclusive Transportation Planning Project

Inclusive Planning Toolkit

- Guidance for more inclusive transportation plans, studies and projects.
- Soon-to-be adopted for use by PACTS.
GOALS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

1. Support community members to gain knowledge and tools.

2. Provide the ongoing support of a peer-to-peer network.

3. Enable current decision-makers to hear directly from participants.

4. Act as a gateway to participation in decision-making.
WHERE PARTICIPANTS START

PASSION
IDEAS
LIVED EXPERIENCE

CTL TRAINING CONTENT

KNOWLEDGE
SKILLS & TOOLS
CONNECTIONS

HANDS-ON WORK W/ PEERS & MENTORS

FOCUS ISSUE & PROPOSED SOLUTION
ACTION PLAN

ENGAGEMENT IN AFFECTING CHANGE & SUPPORT SYSTEM
CTL Training Pilot

Developed and co-facilitated by Mobility Liaisons and staff.

23 participants attending 6 sessions, with transportation support and stipends.

Presentation to PACTS Decision-Makers on December 3rd
Goals & Objectives

01 Consider ONE Application of Broadband: The Public Sector Demand

02 Define Elements of Smart Infrastructure

03 Share Insights on Smart Communities in Maine

04 Highlight Community Driven Efforts in Lewiston
We equip change agents with the tools to build better communities and stronger economies.
An effort to define how smart and connected infrastructure can support civic innovation and economic development throughout Maine.
Smart Communities Maine
Objectives/Activities

**Strategy**
Develop a strategy to support communities

**Inventory**
Create an asset map / inventory of activities around the state

**Implementation**
Craft an implementation plan
What is Smart & Connected Infrastructure?

Technology in the built environment that generates and shares information to improve public services - and ultimately quality of life in our communities.

Smart cities (communities) represent one big potential use of increased broadband infrastructure.

(Public sector demand: the more bandwidth, the more that can be done.)
### Some Examples of “Components”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Traffic Control Signals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Sensors</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED Street Lights</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
More Components...

5G & White Space

Smart Trash Receptacles

Microgrids
Emerging Local Examples...

- Portland Area Air Quality Sensors
- Rumery’s Water Quality Sensors
- Lewiston Water Meters
Smart & Connected Infrastructure in Maine

- **Water & Waste**
  - Advanced meter infrastructure
  - Smart trash

- **Mobility & Transportation**
  - Adaptive traffic control signals
  - Pedestrian sensors

- **Energy & Electricity**
  - LED street lights
  - Microgrids
  - Distributed energy generation

- **Health & Safety**
  - Air quality sensors
  - Water quality sensors
  - Active shooter

- **Information & Communications**
  - 5G
  -Whitespace
  - Municipal broadband
Opportunities to Plug-In

Annual Summit - **October 28 & 29** - Waterville
Info @ [www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org](http://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org)

Help create the asset inventory!
Take the survey: [www.smartcommunitiesmaine.org](http://www.smartcommunitiesmaine.org)
Insights

- Why smart stuff? - **Perform better to save $ + add value**
- It’s not about the tech - Not the product but the **process**
- Process is about people - **Enabling** the best in people is key

Cross-Cutting Themes to Enable Smart Communities

- **Performance Management** - Setting goals and counting what matters
- **Data Governance** - Considering how information is relevant and related
- **Outcome Based Procurement** - Focusing on what you want to achieve
- **Civic Innovation** - Unleashing the wisdom of the crowd
Elements + Insights

Water & Waste  Mobility & Transportation  Energy & Electricity  Health & Safety  Information & Communications

Performance Management
Data Governance
Outcome Based Procurement
Civic Innovation
Data Driven Civic Innovation in Lewiston
Helping property owners, renters, and community stakeholders collaborate as shared stewards of Lewiston’s aging housing stock.
Multi-family properties are a mystery

There’s plenty of public data, but each siloed entity has limited pieces of the puzzle
Even diligent detective work yields poor results

You might know the right questions to ask of the right entities, but getting accurate and timely data in time to inform rental or buying decisions is nearly impossible.
Procuring, aggregating, and democratizing data

- Collaborate with data owners - MOUs
- Receive timely, reliable, regular updates
- Aggregate, grade, organize, and display so non-experts can make highly informed decisions

Renters & buyers make better decisions

Data owners get fewer data inquiries
### Property Health Report

Informing housing decisions in Lewiston since 2018

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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Assessed</th>
<th>Last Sold</th>
<th>Per Square Foot</th>
<th>For Sale?</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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Put into context and tracked over time
How does this data inequity affect our neighbors?

- A tiny percentage of people have the knowledge, time, and access to data owners to perform comprehensive due diligence and get timely, accurate data.
  - Renters sign leases and only discover the reality of unsafe, unhealthy housing and unresponsive owners after they are living there and exposed to risks
  - Investors accept owner-financing from unethical sellers and don’t understand the deep research needed to protect themselves
  - Investors new to the market or multi-family properties assume they’re protected by the standard Seller’s disclosures and title search
  - Owners entrust their properties to professional Property Managers, who may allow the property to deteriorate without the Owner’s knowledge

When multi-family properties fail, the entire community suffers.
Lewiston: Challenge Accepted

Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan

https://www.lewistonmaine.gov/933/Choice-Neighborhood-Grant
Cross-Cutting Principles for Leading Inclusive & Equitable Planning
Equity & Inclusion: How does the work get done?

- Practice proactive leadership (nonprofit, government, individual)
- Bring to the work a personal commitment to equity
- Manage across departments, organizations, systems, sectors
- Practice shared leadership / develop a shared vision
- Use universal / user-centered design principles (what works for the least able among us will work for all)
- Invest time and care in relationships
Equity & Inclusion: What’s the nature of the work?

- Will-building work; “change management”
- Cultural brokers & code-switchers connecting, building bridges
- Decision-making guided by values, informed by data
- Re-thinking, re-configuring old procedures in new ways (procurement, committee structures, meeting norms)
- Addressing & eliminating barriers in real time
LET’S DISCUSS!