



Transit Fixed Route Study Update



In August 2008, the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) contracted with Tom Crikelair Associates to perform a short range fixed route study update for Lewiston-Auburn's *citylink* system. A short range study is needed every five to seven years to evaluate how well the service is meeting the needs of the residents and to address new commercial and residential development.

The study tasks included evaluating the current service, developing service design strategies, addressing the economic impact of transit in a community, and developing a capital and financial plan. The public was included in the process to get input from the people that currently ride and those that would if it fit their travel needs.



The last transit study, completed in 2001, was also conducted by Consultant Tom Crikelair. LATC implemented several recommendations contained in the 2001 study and has seen a constant growth in ridership. *citylink* went from a one-hub system located in Lewiston to a two-hub system adding an Auburn location. The

College Street route was added to carry passengers from the Lewiston hub direct to the Auburn Malls area, and a free Downtown Shuttle route was created to connect the Auburn and Lewiston routes and to serve people living and working in the downtown area. Tom completed the study and has made his presentation to both city councils. His recommendations include several options for increasing service. He evaluated extending service into Saturday as well as extending the hours of service during the week. Each of these recommendations come with additional costs and are being examined.

Other Activities

The ATRC has been active in completing project list for submittal in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), traffic movement permit processes and intersection turning movement counts, including adding two permanent count locations .

Things to look for in 2010

- Expanding the Traffic Signal Management System
- Completion of the Russell Street project in Lewiston
- Reconstruction of Upland Road in Lisbon
- Full reconstruction on Route 9 in Lisbon and Sabattus

(You can follow the activities at the ATRC through our web site: www.ATRCMPO.org)

Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC)

Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) is the organization designated by the federal government to carry out transportation planning in the Greater Lewiston-Auburn Area. The ATRC area includes Lewiston, Auburn, Lisbon and a portion of Sabattus. The ATRC is responsible for Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administration planning and programming.

ATRC evaluates, selects and with Federal and State monies, funds transportation improvement projects and facilitates communication between its member communities, state and federal transportation agencies. It provides opportunities for public participation in transportation planning and funding decisions. It sponsors and conducts studies, through its biennial Unified Planning Work Program, to assist in the transportation planning process.

ATRC is governed by a Policy Committee and Technical Committee. The members of the committees are drawn from municipal officials (both elected and appointed) of the member communities, AVCOG, Maine Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Maine Turnpike Authority. In addition, there are non-voting members on both committees representing, among others, LATC and the transit community.



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AVCOG
- David Jones,
Vice Chair
Public Services Director
Lewiston
- Paul Boudreau,
Director Public Works
Lewiston
- Glenn Aho,
City Manager
Auburn
- Eric LaBelle,
Community Services
Director, Auburn
- Stephen Eldridge,
Town Manager, Lisbon
- Ryan Leighton,
Town Engineer, Lisbon
- Alan LeBlanc,
Public Works Director
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- Conrad Welzel,
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Studies in 2009

Each year ATRC commissions consultant studies to provide a broad assessment of options and opportunities to meet current and future system needs. This information is then used to make policy decisions regarding future projects.

Route 196 Access Management



A draft of the Access Management ordinances for Route 196 in Lewiston and Lisbon was completed. Each community was involved in the ordinance development process and had considerable input regarding the nature and extent of regulations in each community. As proposed, the access management standards in Lewiston will apply to property with frontage on Route 196, west of Westminster Street, only. In Lisbon, the access management standards will apply to all state and state-aid roads rather than just Route 196.

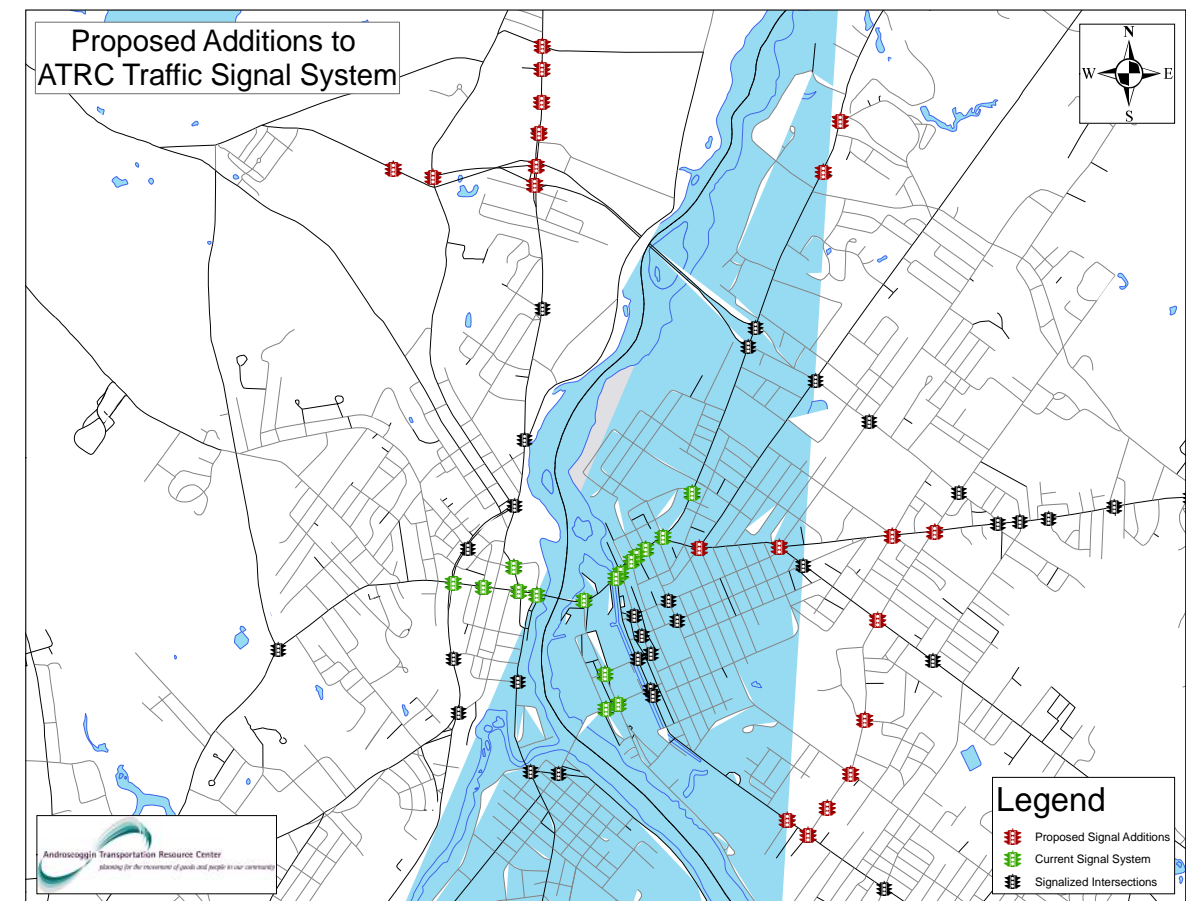
Lisbon and Sabattus Walkability Audits

Staff conducted Walking Audits in Lisbon Falls and Sabattus Village. The Walking Audits included PowerPoint educational presentations of “walk neighborhood” features to familiarize participants with the concepts and issues they would encounter on the walks, and a tour of the study areas so participants could employ what they learned about walkability. A final report of recommendations for improvements within each village was generated and it will be up to each community to implement strategies when appropriate.



Traffic Signal Management System

The objective has been to develop a plan to guide ATRC in establishing a Traffic Signal Management System. That plan will provide ATRC with software, hardware and upgrades, to integrate signals/signal systems into the management system. The Plan was completed and the next Phase of the effort has begun. The Policy Committee approved \$325,000 to implement the first portion of the system; the Center Street/Auburn Mall Area, East Avenue in Lewiston, the Main Street-Lewiston/Court Street-Auburn Corridor, Russell Street in Lewiston, and the Main Street/Mollison Way intersections. These corridors will be connected into the system via high-speed internet connections and managed at the AVCOG Building.



Transit Oriented Development

The town of Lisbon is one of two communities in the state selected to participate in the Maine Transit Oriented Development Study, which is a research project on transit oriented development being conducted by the University of Vermont. ATRC staff assisted the consultants and town officials with this study. ATRC provided consultants with data from ATRC’s travel demand model and met with UVM researchers and town staff on several occasions to discuss development trends, growth scenarios, transportation and land use opportunities for the town, and to discuss the research team’s findings.