

citylink Ridership Growth

2012 marks another year of record ridership on *citylink*. Annual passenger trips exceeded 350,000, a 23% increase over last year. *citylink's* Saturday ridership saw a 39% increase in the second year of operating a limited Saturday schedule. Some small changes were made to two *citylink* routes: Lisbon Street provides service to the new Veteran's Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Lewiston; and the Mall Shuttle provides seasonal summer service to Auburn's Municipal Beach.

Looking ahead to 2013, the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) will be working with the Federal Transit Administration to become a direct recipient. As a direct recipient, LATC will be applying for funds directly to FTA and not MaineDOT. LATC is now partnering with the City of Auburn to construct a new transportation center in Auburn. This will serve as the Auburn hub for *citylink*, as well as serving as a gateway for future transportation services. LATC will be awarding a new three year contract for the operation and maintenance of fixed route and ADA service.



Other Activities

The ATRC has developed a project list for submittal to the MaineDOT as part of its Capital Work Plan (formally known as the BTIP). These projects are a part of the 2013 - 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for 2014 - 2017.

Things to look for in 2013

- Expanding the Traffic Signal Management System
- Lewiston Downtown Circulation Study
- New Auburn Circulation Study
- Update of the Long Range Transportation Plan

LATC Committee

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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. It is also responsible for ensuring that the general public has the opportunity to participate in the planning and project funding decision processes.

Every two years, the ATRC prepares a Transportation Investment Program (TIP) that prioritizes area transportation projects for Federal, State and local funding. It also sponsors and conducts studies, through its biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), 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, Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) and the transit community.



Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC)

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ATRC Technical Committee Voting Members

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- Richard Burnham,**
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- Eric Cousens**
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- Matthew Philbrick**
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- Sara Devlin**
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Activities and Studies

The Downtown Lewiston Circulation Study is currently underway. The study's purpose is to examine what changes could be made on the existing road width to better suit vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation. This may include recommendations to change streets to one-way, or back to two-way operation. Gorrill-Palmer Engineering, the consultant hired to conduct the study, has collected data and is beginning to work on alternatives.

The New Auburn Traffic Circulation Study has a similar scope to the Lewiston study. The goal will be to improve transportation for all modes while maintaining the traditional core village of New Auburn. This study is expected to go out for bid to consultants early in 2013.

ATRC staff have been working closely with City of Auburn staff to evaluate recommendations for future Route 4 projects, and to outline steps to implement projects to improve the safety along the Route 4 corridor, primarily from Joline Drive to the Turner town line.

Staff has spent a significant amount of time looking at the various proposed MTA toll increases and impacts, and working with community members to try to reduce the impact on Western Maine.

After months of negotiations and meetings with MaineDOT, LARC, SLR, AVCOG and HNTB, the contract for the re-establishment of the Rangeley Branch was signed in late April. A project kick-off meeting and site visit was held on May . The project received all its environmental permits in November, and was advertised for construction on November 21st. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at AVCOG on December 5th, with representatives from 18 different contractors in attendance. Bids are due on January 3, 2013, and the contract will be awarded shortly

Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning

The ATRC Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee was created and held its first meeting in August. Committee membership is comprised of representatives from Auburn, Lewiston, Lisbon, Sabattus, the Lewiston/Auburn Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee, Healthy Androscoggin, and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. The committee is tasked with updating the 2008 *Bridging the Gaps—A Long-Range Facilities Plan for Bicycling and Walking in the ATRC Region: Lewiston/Auburn/Lisbon/Sabattus*. The recommendations in the 2008 plan were reviewed for what has been implemented, and the committee is in the process of developing recommendations for the future. Staff was asked by the committee to develop simplified definitions for bicycle facilities so that everyone (elected officials, municipal staff, general public, etc.) can easily understand what the facilities are. This will make



Traffic Signal Management System

The Traffic Signal Management System (TSMS) continues to improve and expand. As data is collected from signalized intersections, it is used to create improved timing plans for both corridors and individual intersections. Staff also collected vehicle count data at the Lewiston-Lisbon town line on Route 196 and the Veteran's Bridge. A plan has been created which will provide ATRC with a path for software, hardware and detection upgrades to integrate groups and individual signals into the management system. As part of a regular update to traffic signal timing, staff worked with its traffic consultant to implement a new a.m. timing plan on the downtown Court Street and Main Street corridor. Staff has also worked to improve signal timing at the intersection of Main Street and Strawberry Avenue, which was recently signalized.

The MaineDOT has undertaken a safety project to upgrade the signals on the central portion of Sabattus Street, Lewiston. Upon completion of the MaineDOT project, those Sabattus Street signals will also be connected into our system and will be linked into the system via high-speed internet connections and managed at the AVCOG building.

There are two traffic signal projects included in the upcoming ATRC 2014—2017 TIP. One project will complete the remainder of Sabattus Street in Lewiston and the other will add 6 signals in downtown Lewiston to the TSMS. The projects will connect the intersections for communication using a fiber optic cable, upgrade hardware and vehicle detection as needed, and complete all necessary ADA improvements.

To be sure that all intersections are able to communicate back to the TSMS, staff worked with its traffic consultant to create a standard hardware specification for construction bidding of traffic signal hardware.

