

Maine DOT Workplan 2026

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ac0941dc1204417ab1869d9585316d77>

Over the next three years ME DOT plans to spend \$4.5 billion on transportation. Subtracting Active transportation (\$93 million), Passenger Rail (\$91 million), Transit (*ie: Bus service*) (\$292 million), Freight Rail (\$70 million), Ports and Marine (\$74 million) and Aviation (\$177 million) the difference is that supporting our road system costs the state \$3.5 billion or approximately 75% of the total transportation budget. ME DOT's highway budget covers only 40% of the roads, the rest are supported by local municipalities.

Active Transportation

Active transportation (walking, bicycling, or other human-scale mobility) accounts for the second most widely used form of transportation in Maine (behind motor vehicles). This Work Plan includes \$93 million in stand-alone investments for active transportation. This is in addition to other projects funded as part of larger highway and bridge projects that also integrate active transportation improvements. These investments help reduce carbon emissions by offering alternatives to driving. The stand-alone projects in this Work Plan include:

- Design and construction of 10 miles of off-road trail on the Mountain Division Rail Line from Fryeburg to Hiram – \$11 million.

- Investments in vulnerable road user safety through new partnerships with municipalities through a new Active Transportation Partnership Initiative – \$3.75 million.

- Filling a sidewalk gap in Gorham, supported by the Active Transportation Partnership Initiative – \$603,000.

- Expansion of the Eastern Trail in Wells, North Berwick, and Kennebunk (2023 RAISE Grant) – \$5.51 million.

- Extending the Beth Condon Trail in Yarmouth (PACTS sponsored) - \$2.93 million

- Construction of sidewalk along Mount Hope Ave in Bangor – \$792,000.

- Demonstration of innovative pedestrian improvements to Water Street in downtown Augusta – \$455,000.

- Investments in vulnerable road user safety through new partnerships with municipalities through a new Active Transportation Partnership Initiative – \$3.75 million.

Passenger Rail

This Work Plan provides \$91 million in federal, state, and farebox resources to support Amtrak Downeaster operations over three years. This service helps provide greater connectivity between Midcoast Maine and the Greater Boston area. The Downeaster ridership has returned to pre-pandemic levels and is now serving nearly 600,000 passengers a year.

Transit

This Work Plan provides \$292 million in transit investments across the state. This includes \$106 million in capital projects and \$186 million to support transit operations. These investments provide critical support to Maine's regional and local transit providers. The Work Plan includes \$24M in State subsidy for Transit operations and capital.

Other transit investments include:

State funding to ten transit agencies to support seventeen discretionary projects to improve transit across the state - \$2M.

Federal Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary funding to purchase new transit vehicles and rehabilitate a maintenance facility - \$1.1million.

Ongoing operation of The LAP pilot bus service between Lewiston/Auburn and Portland - \$1.3 million.

Support for the GO MAINE ride sharing and trip planning platform, in partnership with the Maine Turnpike Authority - \$1.5 million.

Additional support to facilitate the transition of Hancock and Washington County transit services to WaldoCap.

Federal RAISE Grant to purchase electric buses and charging infrastructure for Downeast Transportation to provide services to Acadia National Park and surrounding areas – \$29.4 million.

Rehabilitation work on the City of Bangor’s Community Connector bus storage facility, including work to help prepare the facility for the future installation of electric vehicle charging equipment – \$9.8 million.

Federal Transit Administration grant to renovate aging transit facilities and replace diesel buses – \$3.8 million.

Ongoing operations of a two-year operating pilot bus service between Portland and Lewiston/Auburn launched in 2024 to support commuters and workforce development efforts – \$1.3 million annually.

Freight Rail

Every year, more than one million tons of freight move over state-owned rail lines. That’s the equivalent of 63,000 trucks. The freight rail network provides critical infrastructure that supports the movement of goods and materials, and this helps strengthen our state’s economy.

This Work Plan provides \$70 million for capital freight projects. These include:

\$13 million for the on-going Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) program – a 50/50 state/private program that fulfills “last mile” rail needs. The IRAP will support heavy rail cars and double-stack clearances.