

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro, District 4, Chair
Councilor Roberto Rodriguez, At-Large
Councilor Victoria Pelletier, District 2

Agenda
June 14, 2023
5:00 PM

The Sustainability and Transportation Committee will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) after the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/85006126336?pwd=SEhueVJteEpGTCtrZVhyS0hCNzVyQT09>

1. Review and approve minutes from May 24, 2023
 - a. Minutes from May 24, 2023
2. Sustainability Program Updates
 - a. Updates
3. Presentation and Discussion
 - a. Fore Street Time Limited Parking
Public comment will be taken
 - b. Mid year progress report -- review ongoing committee work and queue up items for subsequent meetings
Committee discussion - no public comment
4. Other Business

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro (D4), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Roberto Rodríguez (At-Large)

Draft Minutes May 24, 2023

Members Present: Councilor Zarro, Councilor Rodríguez

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Katie Tims, Rachel Millette

Guests: James Neal, Cary Tyson

Meeting was called to order.

May 10 Minutes

Councilor Zarro makes a motion to approve the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilor Rodriguez moves the motion. May 10 minutes passed unanimously, 2-0.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon and Katie Tims

With the help of our new implementation platform, BEAM, we are seeing improvements in energy benchmarking reporting and successes for the overall goal of the ordinance. Reports are increasingly more complete and the tool assists in communication with property owners about their building's efficiency, or inefficiency. Anyone with questions or looking for assistance with submitting their report should refer to portlandmaine.gov/energybenchmarking. Residents have been steadily purchasing e-bikes through the Electrify Bikes! incentive and we are excited to learn more about the impact of this program after conducting a follow-up survey later this summer. Maine Public Radio did a story highlighting the City of Portland's efforts to develop EV charging hubs that make it convenient for apartment dwellers to purchase and drive an electric vehicle.

We received a complaint about an application of pesticides at a Little League field by folks volunteering to fix up the field. We followed up with the LL leadership and have gotten assurance that they understand Portland's restriction on the use of pesticides and that they will ensure the LL and volunteers comply.

After launching "Mow Tall Until Fall", the Office is gearing up to host three educational webinars with partners at the Wild Seed Project, Maine Audubon, and UMaine Cooperative Extension throughout the summer. We have free yard signs available to residents. People who are interested can get one from the Guest Services staff at the main entrance and Myrtle St. entrance to City Hall.

We have met with the leadership from both of our Sustainable Neighborhoods partners – Libbytown and Parkside. The next step is to schedule kick-off events for both neighborhoods inviting all neighborhood residents to learn more about the program and provide input on what types of initiatives the neighborhood might adopt. Stay tuned for more information on our website, newsletter, social media, and flyers.

Councilor Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilor Zarro asks about requesting bikeshare being expanded to off-peninsula neighborhoods. *The Sustainability Office will follow up with the Transportation Director.*

Councilor Rodriguez commends the office on the handling of the pesticide application report at the Little League.

Consideration of a request by Portland Downtown to declare Sundays from June 16 to September 23, 2023, “Open Air Sundays” on Exchange Street

Presented by Cary Tyson of Portland Downtown

After requests from downtown businesses and residents, Portland Downtown is requesting the declaration of “Open Air Sundays”. There are roughly 29 parking spaces that would be impacted. Examples of current open streets includes Wharf St, Milk St, and Dana St. Portland Downtown has done immense outreach to get feedback from residents and business owners with overwhelming positive responses. The permit is found in the agenda packet.

Public Comment on Portland Downtown Presentation

East Brown Cow spoke in support of the request.

Councilor Comment on Portland Downtown Presentation

Councilor Rodriguez spoke in support of the request and asks how emergency vehicles could access the street. *There is a 12 ft gap between the barriers for emergency services access. Milk St is another access point.*

Councilor Zarro notes that there is no loss of revenue because there are no parking fees on Sundays. What was the deciding factor for choosing Saturday instead of Saturday or all weekend? *Portland Downtown spoke with stakeholders and from that feedback, decided starting with one day and a day that doesn't have parking fees to start with.*

Motion to recommend to full Council

Councilor Zarro motions to move the Portland Downtown request to the full Council. Councilor Rodriguez seconds the motion. Passed 2-0.

Workshop on Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

Presented by James Neal of Efficiency Maine

In 2020, the Maine Legislature approved and Governor Mills signed a bill to create a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program in Maine. The City of Portland testified in favor of the legislation and City Staff, including the Sustainability Director and the Assessor, participated in working groups that influenced the language in the bill. With passage, the law instructed Efficiency Maine to create the rules and regulations to implement C-PACE in Maine. After extensive consultation with stakeholders in the building community, lenders, and municipalities, Efficiency Maine staff published the implementation rules in March 2023. The purpose of meeting this evening is to review these documents with you and determine whether you wish City staff to work on a local ordinance authorizing the City to participate in the C-PACE

program. During the meeting, we will review how C-PACE works, the role of the municipality, and how C-PACE helps the owners of commercial properties implement energy efficiency measures and renewable energy projects in their buildings. We will discuss how the program can work for new construction as well as for existing buildings. James Neal of Efficiency Maine will be present to describe the program in detail. As we have reported frequently, over 60% of Portland's greenhouse gas emissions come from the building sector. The Sustainability Office works closely with building owners through programs such as Energy Benchmarking to help them understand their energy consumption. Our program is more powerful if we can direct them to affordable financial tools to fund energy projects that can reduce that consumption. Given limited municipal resources, it is essential to establish programs that harness and leverage private investment in energy projects that save building owners money and help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the goals established in One Climate Future.

Councilor Comment on Workshop on Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy

Councilor Zarro clarifies that Efficiency Maine would be the participating Trust. *The assessment evaluation ratio would be the market rate value by the capital providers.* How much of the capital providers can be prioritized to local vendors? *Efficiency Maine has a strong focus on involving local community capital providers and they are fast-track approved to be a vendor.*

Councilor Rodriguez asks how many communities are in talks to be involved in C-PACE? *James is in contact with 8 municipalities discussing the implementing C-PACE.* What have other municipalities experienced? *It doesn't seem to work in larger cities/municipalities. Portland is in a better position as it is not too large or small and the retrofit market would benefit from C-PACE the most. Of the municipalities that have adopted C-PACE, none have been known to repeal the ordinance.*

Next steps include bringing Finance and Assessors and Corporation Counsel into the conversation to review before bringing back to the committee.

Review and Discuss Burlington, Vermont's Carbon Pollution Impact Fee

Presented by Troy Moon

In March, 2023 residents in Burlington, Vermont voted to establish a carbon pollution impact fee of \$150 per ton that would apply to new commercial and industrial buildings of more than 50,000 square feet in size that use fossil fuel infrastructure for heating. Proceeds from the fee will be used to mitigate the effects of carbon emissions from these buildings by funding initiatives such as electrifying the City of Burlington's municipal vehicles and helping low income residents adopt clean heating technologies such as heat pumps. The fee will be applied at the time of construction and be based on the calculated lifetime emissions of the fossil fuel equipment. Building developers who install systems that use renewable energy are not subject to the fee. By Burlington's definition, renewable energy includes geothermal heat pumps, air and water source heat pumps, advanced wood heating, and conventional systems using renewable gas, biodiesel, and renewable hydrogen.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger and the City Council placed the initiative on the municipal ballot for voter approval. The measure passed with more than 67% support. Burlington city staff are currently working on ordinance language to implement the program. In the back up material we have included the resolution passed by the Burlington City Council that includes the

language passed by the voters. and a report conducted by Burlington City prior to that ballot initiative that informed the Burlington City Council's decision to move forward.

Councilor Comment on Burlington, Vermont's Carbon Pollution Impact Fee

Councilor Rodriguez asks if this would need to go to the ballot. *It would likely not need to go to the ballot.* Councilor Rodriguez agrees that this is worth looking into and would require stakeholder engagement.

Councilor Zarro recommends that the Sustainability Office look into the item further and bring back to the committee. The impact fee would be impactful to the One Climate Future goals. It will require a workshop at a later date.

Motion to Adjournment

Moved by Councilor Rodríguez, all adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned



CITY OF PORTLAND

Sustainability Office

Troy Moon

Sustainability Director

Sustainability Updates

June 14, 2023

Energy

On June 12, the City of Portland launched a new partnership with [EnergySage](#), a web-based platform that helps homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits research and shop for rooftop solar, community solar subscriptions, and other clean energy solutions. The partnership with EnergySage is key in supporting Action BE3.6 in One Climate Future, outlining our “continuously evolving solar proliferation strategy” that involves launching a direct marketing and education campaign that connects property owners with resources, quotes from local & vetted solar installers, financing options, 24/7 customer service, and more.

We met with system planners from CMP to review preliminary data regarding the feasibility of deploying shore power on the Portland waterfront. This was a high level overview of the work they have completed on their study and we will reconvene later this summer as they complete more work on the project.

Waste Reduction

Using translation services from Language Partners we were able to translate the food scrap drop-site accepted materials sign into 2 additional languages, Somali and Vietnamese, and have posted these resources on our website. We are preparing to launch an outreach campaign to raise awareness around the social and environmental benefits of composting and to encourage Portland residents to take advantage of our free food scrap drop-off program.

We’ve invited Kevin Roche, CEO of ecomaine, to join our meeting in July to provide an overview of the organization and plans to improve recycling and waste reduction efforts in our region.

Landcare

We hosted our first Lunch & Learn webinar in our Summer Landcare Webinar Series with experts at the Maine Audubon on June 6. Check out the recording of “Creating Bird-Friendly Habitat in Your Backyard” [here](#).

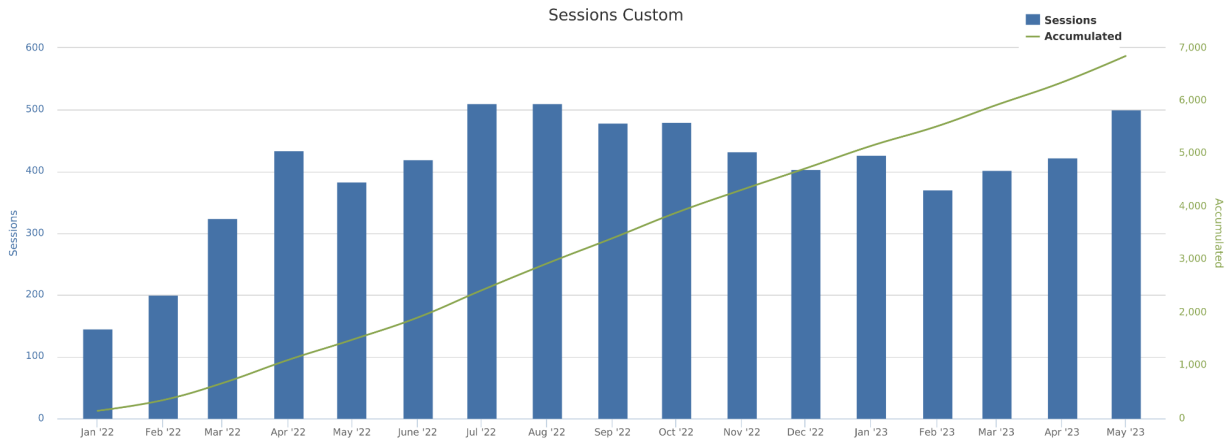
We still have free [“Mow Tall Until Fall”](#) yard signs available to residents. People who are interested can get one from the Guest Services staff at the main entrance and Myrtle St. entrance to City Hall.

Electric Vehicles



We're pleased to announce that the City of Portland will be receiving a fully electric waste hauler this fall. (It is currently being built by the manufacturer.) It is a Mack LRE that the Solid Waste team will use for regular trash collection service. The Sustainability Office is working with DPW to build charging infrastructure for it and for electric equipment that will join the fleet in the future. This will be the first heavy duty electric truck deployed in Maine.

Usage of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure we have deployed continues to grow. The graph below shows usage of the fifteen City owned Chargepoint stations deployed at Payson Park, Spring/High, City Hall, and the Portland Jetport. Usage in the first quarter of this year dramatically outpaced usage during the first quarter of last year, with usage levels approaching last summer's peak months. We are also seeing usage of the EVgo infrastructure, particularly the fast charger at Spring/High.



Community Support

Katie met with ~20 residents in Libbytown and walked around the neighborhood to talk about ideas and get to know one another. The Sustainable Libbytown Kick-Off event is scheduled for the evening of June 14 at Bunker Brewing Co. Many community projects are happening right now in Libbytown and the Kick-Off event will start right after the nearby Parks & Rec ribbon cutting event at the Grand Opening of Dougherty Field Playground. Both events will also provide opportunities for folks to learn about upcoming community meetings for the Kiwanis Pool redesign. We look forward to supporting Libbytown and its community-driven ideas and initiatives.

We have been working with the Parkside Neighborhood Association to spread the word about the neighborhood's participation in the program and recently put flyers in mailboxes around the neighborhood. One of the main goals the PNA has identified is to re-energize community engagement and get neighbors involved and socializing again and we are excited to use this program to help make that happen. Stay tuned for details on the time and date for the Sustainable Parkside Kick-Off event.

Bikeshare

The Planning Department reports that the bikeshare program is off to a successful start this year. Ridership numbers exceed what we saw last fall. Bruce Hyman will join the Committee's meeting in July to provide a more formal update.

Education and Outreach

On May 30, Erin attended the Maine ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Chapter May Meeting for a presentation about Building Decarbonization. This was a great opportunity to connect with professionals in the building design sector.

On June 5, Troy presented at the Mid-Coast Climate Resilience Resource Workshop to share expertise and updates on projects in community engagement and communication. This was a

great opportunity to bring resilience experts together with community members to build relationships that will support communities in moving forward in their climate planning goals.

On June 9, with partners at the Maine Audubon and the Portland Society for Architecture, we co-hosted an info session on the draft of [new Building Bird Safe Legislation](#). You can learn more about the project and the proposed bird-friendly building and design requirements by visiting [BirdSafe Maine](#) or the [Portland Society of Architecture's website](#). We will present the final draft of the ordinance to the committee for consideration during our July meeting.

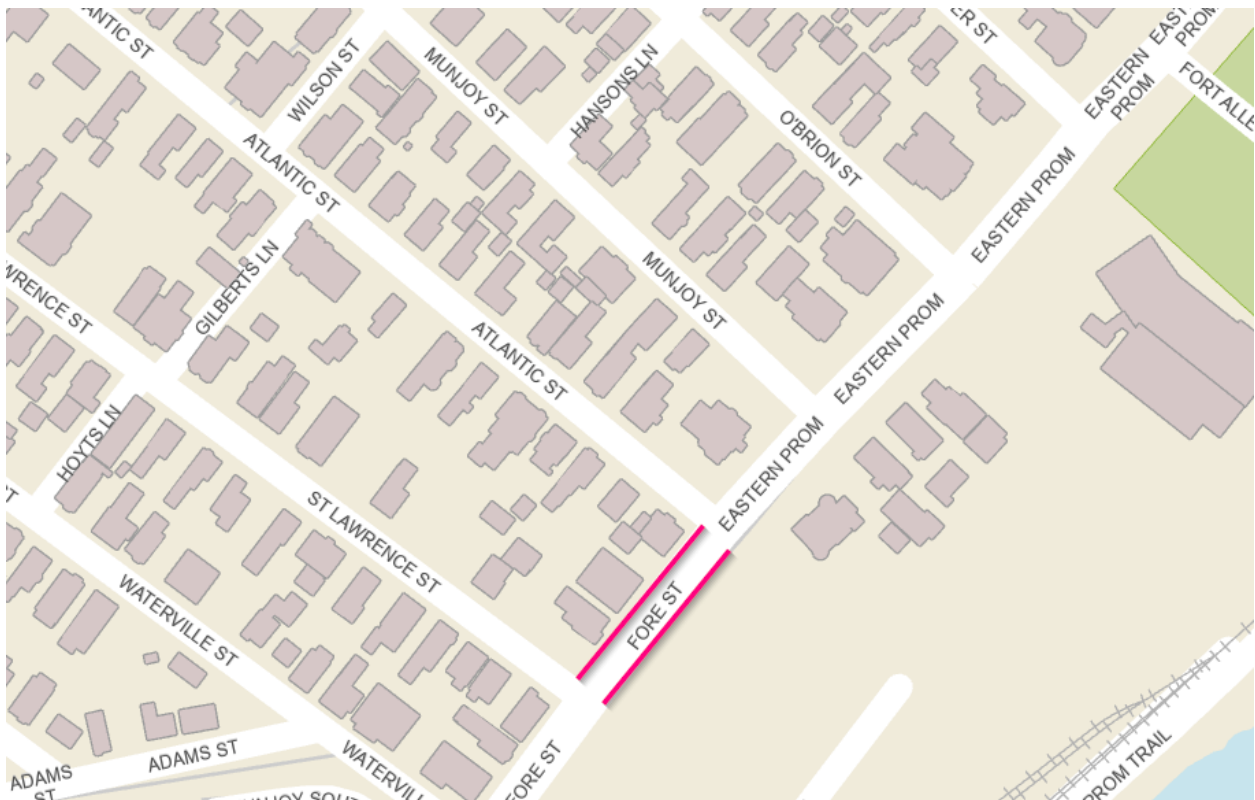
On June 12, the Brunswick Conservation Commission hosted Troy Moon, Sustainability Director for the City of Portland, to give a presentation on addressing climate change at the local level. Learn more about the event [here](#).

On June 13, the One Climate Future team hosted a virtual event, led by the Governor's Energy Office, to learn how the untapped potential of offshore wind can help propel Maine toward its goal of 100% renewable energy by 2040. The recording should be posted online following the webinar, but you can learn more about [Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap here](#).

Join us on Friday for our June Coffee and Climate: Sustainability & the Arts, hosted at the Portland Museum of Art on June 16th at 10:30 AM! Entrance to the museum and the event are free! Please reserve your ticket through the [Eventbrite link here](#).

Climate and Coffee events are community conversations that happen on the 2nd Friday of the month at 9 AM. We record sessions with guest speakers and post them on www.oneclimatefuture.org, along with other information about our work. You can also follow us on social media. Instagram [@sustainableportlandme](#) / Twitter [@SustainPortME](#) / FB [@SustainablePortlandME](#)

Earlier this year the City Manager's Office received a petition to amend the parking schedule to provide for 2 hour parking between 9 AM - 6 PM on both sides of Fore Street between St. Lawrence Street and Atlantic Street. (See below in red.)



389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | p: 207.756.8362 | thm@portlandmaine.gov

If the Committee wishes to recommend this amendment to the full City Council, staff recommends that it take effect following Labor Day, 2023 in order to provide notice to Island residents and others who currently utilize the parking spaces on this block. Parking Division Manager John Peverada will be present to discuss this recommendation and two answer questions from Committee members.

Department of Public Works

Mike Murray

Acting Director

March 14, 2023



Troy Moon
Sustainability Director
City of Portland

Subject: Fore Street Parking Petition: Change from Unrestricted Parking to Two-Hour Parking

Dear Troy,

I have reviewed the petition received by the City to change the Traffic Schedule on Fore Street between St. Lawrence Street and Atlantic Street from unrestricted parking to two-hour parking, 9 AM to 6 PM. The petition meets the specified criteria, and as such, I am in support of this proposed change.

Please let me know if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremiah J. Bartlett". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a prominent "B".

Jeremiah J. Bartlett, PE, PTOE
Transportation Systems Engineer
Department of Public Works