

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Regina Phillips (D3), Chair
Councilor Pious Ali (At-Large)
Councilor Anna Bullett (D4)

Approved Minutes July 9, 2025

Members Present: Councilor Phillips, Councilor Bullett, Councilor Ali

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Karly Meyer, Greg Jordan, Dena Libner, Masi Ngidi-Brown, Paul Bradbury

Meeting was called to order.

June 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The June 16, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Sustainability Updates

Presented by Troy Moon and Karly Meyer, Sustainability Office

On July 8, the Sustainability Office convened a meeting of the interdepartmental Resilience Working Group for a discussion and walking tour of Bayside, looking at the climate-related impacts on existing infrastructure, proposed housing development, the work of social service providers, stormwater management, transportation projects, and more.

We completed our summer Landcare Lunchbreak webinar series and now have built a fantastic library of informative webinars on sustainable landcare, covering everything from soil testing, healthy lawn maintenance, bird-friendly and native yardscaping, and how

The Sustainability Office launched a Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program, which provides up to \$500 to fund actions at the street or block level that achieve goals noted in our climate action plan, encourage social interaction between neighbors, and build social connections that can make a neighborhood more resilient during emergencies or times of stress. Proposed projects or actions must involve at least three separate households in close proximity to each other and must focus on their immediate neighborhood.

Portland International Jetport Infrastructure Improvement Project Updates

Presented by Paul Bradbury, Jetport Director

The Jetport has several large projects underway or recently completed, including:

- ❖ Replacement of the Air Rescue and Fire Fighting 1,500 gallon truck Replacement that allows the Jetport to transition from PFAS containing Aqueous Film Forming Foam to the new Fluorine Free Foam (F3) firefighting product.
- ❖ Gates 11, 12, & 14 Terminal Improvements, Loading Bridges, and Fixed Bridge Extensions.

- ❖ Relocation of the Jetport Administration Offices, Operation Center, and new Airport Emergency Operations Center, designed to support operations in the event of an airport emergency and to support the City of Portland's use of the National Incident Management System plan for all emergencies response.
- ❖ Surface Parking and Battery Energy Storage System Project: Reconstruction and improvement of the former privately held ParkNJet parking lot site and the construction of new surface parking on Jetport land west of the Embassy Suites hotel. The project also includes the installation of a 1.9 MW / 5MWhr Battery Energy Storage System for load shedding and terminal building electrical system back-up.
- ❖ Completion of the Yellowbird Road Sidewalk which will allow pedestrian and bike access around the north end of the Jetport.

Councilor Comments on Portland International Jetport Infrastructure Improvement Project Updates

Councilor Bullett asks if the Yellowbird Road Sidewalk is connected to other Portland Trails. Yes, *Portland Trails is engaged and this new trail provides connection to a future public trail with water access to the Fore River.*

Councilor Phillips raises two questions that have been asked by the public: why are we looking at adding parking at the Jetport and what is the difference between the 1997 Master Plan or the 2005 Master Plan? *In 2019 and in the early months of 2020, we achieved all time record passenger volumes at the Jetport. We went to the City Council in January 2020, and received an appropriation for design funding for surface parking based on those growth counts. We do Master Plans roughly every 10 years. These Master Plans are generally accepted by the City Council but not necessarily adopted as a planning document by the City Council, the purpose of an airport master plan because the FAA needs the safety planning for a ten year period, much of it is based on the newest safety guidance for a commercial transportation center.*

Councilor Ali wonders if Paul could share (at a future Council meeting) information on the working relationship between the car rentals, is there any incentive and what is the benefit to Portland? What percentage of revenue comes from car rentals? *Car rentals are very important to PWM. The gross revenue annually is around 75 million and around 7.5 million goes to the Jetport. But there are ancillary fees from vehicle registration of around a million that goes to the City general fund.*

Councilor Phillips asks what other considerations were made around building the parking in that location? *Many factors and sites/alternate opportunities were considered, but ultimately additional parking needs to be added and should be at a multi-modal facility.* Council Phillips reminds the public that this was a communication item and there will be a future meeting that takes public comment on this item.

Overview of CMP's Portland Area Grid Project

Presented by Jay Chace and Chris Morin, Central Maine Power

City staff have been meeting with Central Maine Power to review their Area Grid Project involving upgrades to transmission and infrastructure in the region. Significant load growth is expected in Greater Portland over the next 10+ years due to continued development and beneficial electrification. Central Maine Power is finalizing a Maine Public Utilities Commission Filing for Greater Portland with a phased implementation approach that enables collaboration with key stakeholders including the City of Portland and City of South Portland. City staff hope there are areas to collaborate, especially during major construction projects such as the Franklin Street Redesign.

Councilor Comments on CMP's Portland Area Grid Project

Councilor Ali asks what the schedule for construction is for these projects? *Phase 1, if approved, would be a 5-year construction project.*

Councilor Bullett asks clarifying questions about communication with all City departments and other stakeholders to coordinate these projects.

Naming Policy for Public Facilities

Presented by Masi Ngidi-Brown, Interim JDEI Director

In light of these multiple requests to name/rename City facilities, staff recommend the development of a more formal and rigorous process that broadens inclusion, widens community engagement, improves transparency, and effectively aids the City Council in making decisions to name/rename City streets, parks, facilities, and other public places. The resulting ordinance will reflect a general approach for the future and the projects it brings. We are looking for feedback from this Committee in order to draft a proposed ordinance, which would be considered by the Committee in September 2025

Councilor Comments on Naming Policy for Public Facilities

Councilor Ali and Councilor Phillors both touch on the trickiness of navigating the naming of City assets after individuals or families, due to the potential of future controversy.

Amendments to Chapter 30 -- Vehicles for Hire (Taxi fare increase)

Presented by Troy Moon, Sustainability Director

The regulation of taxi rates in the City of Portland is governed by Chapter 30 Vehicles for Hire of the Portland City Code, specifically, Article II Taxicabs, §§ 30-16--30-38.5. Sec. 30-21. The Committee requested that staff research the established fares in other New England cities (Boston, Manchester, and Burlington) in order to provide context for their deliberation about a potential fare increase.

Staff recommends that the Committee discussion potential increases in the following areas:

- ❖ Drop Charge/Initial Fee from \$1.90 to \$4.00
- ❖ Each additional mile \$0.30 to \$0.35/mile, calculated at each 1/10 mile
- ❖ Wait time from \$0.40/minute to \$0.50/minute

- ❖ Minimum charge (from the Jetport) \$5 to \$10

Councilor Comments on Amendments to Chapter 30 -- Vehicles for Hire

Councilor Bullett notes that this is a significant increase in charges and this should be well communicated to the taxi driver community.

Councilor Phillips clarifies the additional mile increase.

Motion to approve Amendments to Chapter 30 -- Vehicles for Hire (Taxi fare increase)

The motion was moved by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Bullett.

The motion was accepted unanimously and will move forward to full City Council.

Motion to Adjourn

The motion was moved by Councilor Ali and seconded by Councilor Bullett.

The motion was approved 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned