

Information on Public Transportation Resources
Greater Franklin County and Beyond
Compiled in Advance of The Community Conversation on Transportation
4:30 p.m. via Zoom, October 8, 2020



The following is a listing of programs currently offered by community organizations in Franklin County and beyond. Programs offered outside of the Greater Franklin county area may serve as models for programs for additional public transportation options in Greater Franklin County.

Franklin, Somerset and Oxford County resources:

Western Maine Transportation Services

Western Maine Transportation Services is a nonprofit regional transportation corporation. It serves Franklin County as well as Androscoggin and Oxford counties with designated routes. It is available to anyone at the cost of \$3.00 per boarding for travel within either county, or a \$5.00 fee for travel between Franklin and Androscoggin counties, with a \$3.00 local fare between Jay and Livermore Falls. The bus can be used for medical appointments, shopping, personal services and daytime social activities but passengers must call 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride. Their contact information is provided at <https://www.wmtsbus.org/contact-us/>.

Community Concepts

The Community Concepts Transportation Program began in 1986 and through staff and volunteers they cover over 13 million miles annually. They are in Franklin, Androscoggin, and Oxford Counties. They offer transportation for MaineCare, critical care, and non-medical transportation for anyone for a fee. Some people may not be able to afford said fee but free rides are available if you are sixty or older, a cancer patient, a veteran, or have a low income. The phone number for their corporate office is (207) 795-4065 and their email is info@community-concepts.org.

Rangeley HealthRide

Rangeley HealthRide is a free service offered by the Town of Rangeley to residents of Rangeley and the surrounding villages. Rides to health-related appointments are offered to seniors, low income families or anyone else who does not have another means of transportation. Volunteer drivers pick the patient up at home, take them to their appointment and then drive them home afterwards in a sturdy vehicle owned and maintained by the Town of Rangeley. To inquire about the program or to schedule a trip please call (207) 864-9777 or email program director Paul Nute, paulnute@yahoo.com

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Kennebec Valley Community Action Program

This resource provides several different programs for transportation. The Kennebec Explorer provides rides throughout the greater Waterville and Augusta area while the Somerset Explorer serves lower Somerset county. Both are provided at low cost fares with children getting a reduced price or free rides. They also provide the Move More Kids program, which serves lower Somerset county, providing rides to places that provide healthy activities for kids for only \$1.25 in-town, \$1.50 between towns and with passengers 18 and under for free. They also provide van services through MaineCare transportation and the MaineCare Friend & Family Driver Program which is a mileage reimbursement program for people who can transport themselves or have a friend/family member who will provide their ride. Their phone number is 1-800-542-8227, and their email is info@kvcap.org.

Transportation Resources serving additional Maine counties:

Neighbors Driving Neighbors

Neighbors Driving Neighbors is a nonprofit organization that started in about 2013. They work to match volunteer drivers with adults who are unable to drive, with priority for those without any other form of transportation. This allows clients to be able to stay in their homes and live full lives by being able to run errands, volunteer, socialize, and more. They serve five towns (none of which are in Franklin County); Mount Vernon, Vienna, Rome, Fayette, and Belgrade. It is free for the riders and they can be taken anywhere within 35 miles of these locations. Volunteers are reimbursed for their mileage. Their phone number is (207) 860-0677 and their email is neighborsdrivingneighbors@gmail.com.

Friends in Action

Friends in Action is a nonprofit that was founded in 2003 in response to concern about transportation for older people in Hancock County. While they do provide other services, their focus is on transportation for older adults, disabled people, and their caregivers. They serve over 300 people in Hancock County per year, helping people get to where they need to go while still allowing them to be independent. Like Neighbors Driving Neighbors, they are also run by volunteers, are free for riders, and they provide rides anywhere in Hancock County. Their phone number is (207) 664-6016 and their email is info@friendsinactionellsworth.org.

People Plus

People Plus is a nonprofit organization that is based in Brunswick but also provides transportation in Harpswell and Topsham. Their services are for older adults, including center activities and outreach services. Their Volunteer Transportation Network is free and run by the staff and volunteers of their Senior Center, taking riders to anywhere in the Brunswick, Harpswell, and Topsham area. While they primarily serve older adults, anyone in the area can apply if they are eighteen or older and unable to drive. Their phone number is (207) 729-0757, and contact form is online at <https://peopleplusmaine.org/contact-us>.

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ITN America

ITN America is a nonprofit organization that serves seniors providing lifelong mobility through a transportation network. They are currently working on ITN Country, a service of theirs that is customized for rural areas like Franklin County. Service is provided in private automobiles 24 hours a day, for any purpose with a combination of paid and volunteer drivers. People who use the service become members of the organization and open Personal Transportation Accounts, which hold transportation assets in various forms. Through innovative programs, where volunteer drivers earn credits for their own future needs or where older people may trade the cars they can no longer drive safely to pay for their rides, ITN has found creative ways to increase the resources available to pay for transportation.” Their technology would be an easy to use and modern resource for the community, making the ride process much more efficient and like other ride apps like Uber or Lyft. Their number is (207) 857-9001 and their Chief Information Officer’s email is alan.fried@itnamerica.org.

Downeast Transportation

Downeast Transportation does shopping trips to Ellsworth and Bangor, and in-town shuttle service for Bucksport, Ellsworth, and Bar Harbor. They also operate the Island Explorer to Acadia National Park and neighboring towns from June 23 through Columbus Day. Their fares are \$1.00 a day per within one town, \$3.00 within neighboring towns, and \$6.00 for longer rides in the County. A trip to Bangor is \$7.00 or \$9.00 depending on what town you are starting from. Round trip is equal to a one-day fare if you complete your ride in the same day. Commuting costs \$17 or \$20 per week depending on what town you are going to with a single ride fare being \$6. Their phone number is (207) 667-5796 and their email is info@downeasttrans.org.

Aroostook Regional Transportation System, Inc.

ARTS is essentially the Aroostook County version of Western Maine Transportation, it is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1979. They provide door to door transportation for their county, Patten/Stacyville in Penobscot County and Danforth in Washington County. Their services are provided for everyone at affordable rates, it’s about \$10 or less depending on where someone is going. From their website: “Services are provided for Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, Central Aroostook Association, LogistiCare (MaineCare) and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services through a contracted rate with no charge to the individuals.” Their contact form is <https://www.arostooktransportation.org/contact-us.html> and their phone number is (207) 764-1290 (Main Office).

Downeast Community Partners

Downeast Community Partners offers a variety of transportation services, including medical transportation for MaineCare recipients, rides to child protective visits (must be referred by DHHS), and transportation to shelter workshops (also only for those on MaineCare). They also do rides for the public if they’re going to a selected town, however that cost money but is free for seniors. They also help individuals get used car loans, another helpful transportation service. Their phone number is 877-374-8396 and emails for their various offices are here: <https://www.downeastcommunitypartners.org/contact/>.

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Community Connector

The Community Connector is a public transport system that serves Bangor, Brewer, Hampden, Veazie, Orono, and Old Town. The bus also provides service to the University of Maine, Husson University, and Eastern Maine Community College. It does offer a half cash fare program where you only pay .75, available to those 60 years old or older, with a Medicare card, an ADA Paratransit ID card, or those with limited mobility. Their phone number is 207-992-4670 and their email is community.connector@bangormaine.gov

Penquis Transportation Services

Penquis Transportation Services covers Penobscot, Piscataquis, Kennebec, and Somerset Counties by using the Lynx Mobility Services, volunteer drivers, taxi services, and the Community Connector. Appointments for MaineCare are reimbursed through the insurance, but other rides require a fee depending on what town they are traveling to. Two full business days' notice is also required. Their phone number is 973-3695 and email is lynx@penquis.org.

Midcoast Connector

The Mid-Coast Connector provides mileage reimbursement for people on MaineCare who drive themselves or are driven to non-emergency medical appointments. They also provide rides to non-emergency medical appointments for MaineCare members who cannot drive themselves or be driven. Their phone number is (855) 930 7900 and their email is info@midcoastconnector.org.

Waldo Community Action Partners

Waldo Community Action Partners provides general public transportation for everyone, with fares ranging from \$1.50-\$8.00 each way. There is also the Downtown Area Shuttle in Belfast and Rockland, costing a \$2.00 one-way fare, \$5.00 day passes, or 12-punch cards for \$20.00 and monthly passes for \$50.00. There is a low-income fee waiver as well, allowing limited use for free transportation. Their phone number is (207) 338-680 and email is info@waldocap.org.

Regional Transportation Program

The Regional Transportation Program serves Cumberland county, provides rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, DHHS, and to educational facilities for children with special needs. People who are elderly, have a disability, low income, children, or receive MaineCare can ride for free. Those who do not qualify for that pay \$2.50 for one-way trips within one town, or between neighboring towns and \$5.00 one way for trips between non-adjointing towns. Their phone number is (207) 774-2666 and their email is jackd@rtprides.org (executive director).

York County Community Action

YCCA provides a lot of different transportation services for York County, including the following (information is directly from their website):

Sanford Transit: Provides year-round in-town service from Springvale to South Sanford with designated stops, route deviation, and connecting services.

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WAVE: Provides premium year-round service between Sanford-Biddeford and Sanford-Wells, as well as door-to-door service options for a minimal fee. Reservation required.

Shoreline Explorer: Operates a seasonal trolley and shuttle service which coordinates with private operators to provide service between York and Kennebunk. The Orange line operates year-round between Sanford and Wells also provides connecting services.

Other Transportation Services

When YCCAC's public transportation services are not an option, volunteer drivers may be able to help. Using their own vehicles, these screened and trained volunteers provide a critical component of a client-centered service.

The Volunteer Driver Program provides contracted transportation for children and families receiving case management from DHHS or Child Development Services and other private contracts as well as limited medical, non-emergency transportation for individuals that cannot be served on public transportation routes.

The Connect to Cancer Care Program will provide transportation services to any resident needing assistance getting to cancer care at area facilities.

Local Rides routes take residents to the closest regional shopping and medical destinations once a week for each town served. Riders are typically picked up at their homes with a return trip an hour or more later. Reservation required.

York County Veterans service helps veterans requiring transportation to medical appointments. Reservation required.

Their number is (207) 324-5762 and this links to their page with contact inform per town <https://yccac.org/contact/>.