



Moving Maine Forward with the Transportation & Climate Initiative

Right now, 12 states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic are developing a regional **Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI)** that will help create a transportation system for the future that provides more public transit options and less pollution from cars and trucks.

Maine's Transportation Problem

Getting around Maine can be more difficult than it needs to be. The only options available to many of us are often costly, time-consuming, and not especially healthy.

We're not alone in facing these challenges. People across the Northeast feel stuck with a transportation system without good choices.

- Traffic congestion on local roads and highways is getting worse and wastes our time.
- Public transit options either don't exist or are extremely limited for those who don't own a car, can't drive, or want to drive less.
- Walking and biking can be difficult or even dangerous in some areas, due to the absence of safe shoulders or sidewalks.
- The gas and diesel that fuels our cars and trucks is the top source of carbon pollution in Maine and contributes to serious health problems like childhood asthma.
- The high cost of operating one or more vehicles is putting people in debt, and the \$3 billion that Maine drivers spend on fuel every year doesn't stay here. Instead, it's sent out of state to large multinational corporations.

Oil companies make billions of dollars annually from the status quo system, and are fighting to block progress toward a cleaner transportation future. Maine people strongly support a transition that will bring more options and less pollution. That's why the Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) is so important. TCI holds the promise of making smart improvements that will make it easier for Mainers to get around.

Visit the TCI website at www.transportationandclimate.org to learn more and submit comments in support of this exciting initiative.

More info on back.

How Will TCI Deliver Solutions that Work for Mainers?

Imagine a future where you could ride the bus with your friends and co-workers, get to a doctor's appointment or the grocery store even if you don't have a card, and be able to safely walk or bike through your town.

TCI could deliver solutions like these through a clean transportation fund that requires oil polluters to contribute funds based on the pollution they cause. Money from the fund could be used to invest in solutions that benefit both rural and urban communities.

We know this approach can be successful because TCI is similar to a regional program that has effectively reduced energy costs for Mainers and limited carbon pollution from dirty power plants. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) also uses a clean energy fund, generating revenues for Efficiency Maine's energy efficiency programs for weatherization, heat pumps, and other measures that save businesses, homes, and industry money.

Upgrading Our Transportation System Gives Us More Choices

A clean transportation fund would give the state, regional planning offices, and local communities the tools and resources to invest in local, affordable, reliable, and healthy solutions for getting around. These could include:

- Expanding affordable and reliable transit services like buses, shuttles, and vanpools to help us drive less.
- Supporting broadband infrastructure to strengthen local economies and reduce how much we need to drive by making it easier to work from home.
- Providing rebates for electric trucks and cars, which can save Mainers hundreds of dollars a month on fuel and maintenance costs, and grants for towns and businesses to install electric car chargers to make it easier for drivers to charge their cars when they are away from home.
- Promoting more efficient movement of freight through Maine to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.
- Investing in our communities to make walking and biking safer and more convenient.



For more information contact us at (207) 622-3101, nrcm@nrcm.org, or visit www.nrcm.org



Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330
(207) 622-3101 • nrcm@nrcm.org • www.nrcm.org