

The Future of Transportation in Belfast & Waldo County: Summary from 2/9/23

ABCD and the Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (CCC) hosted the fourth Community Climate Conversation on February 9, 2023. "The Future of Transportation in Belfast & Waldo County" event took place in the Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library. 37 people attended in person and on Zoom.

We heard updates from two CCC members, and from the Belfast Pedestrian, Biking & Hiking Committee on their vision & priorities for Belfast.



Some takeaways & ideas from participants:

- It was thought-provoking and energizing to discuss a "culture shift" in the future of transportation - re-envisioning our habits and the ways we can provide a "diversity of mobility options" for everyone!
- The City of Belfast is in the process of applying for Maine's Community Resilience Partnership program - making Belfast eligible for no-match grant monies for projects to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate change. The City will complete a self-evaluation and seek public input as part of the process.
- The Pedestrian, Biking & Hiking Committee presented their annual report to the City on February 7. Their key recommendation is that the City hire a professional planner to draft an official comprehensive pedestrian/bike plan. The Committee, with the City's support, is pursuing grants to hire the professional planner to create this master plan.
- A few highlights from the attendee conversation (see full report for more):
 - "Slow tourism" & the idea to try closing a city street to car traffic in summer.
 - Look back on community layouts of 100 years ago, with clustered "service nodes" meeting people's needs. Modern version could be "mini cities" within 15 minutes walking distance?
 - Municipal support for year-round biking, walking (e.g. where snow is plowed)
 - Ridesharing community
 - "Coordinated transit" with Waldo Community Action Partners
 - Idling ordinance
 - Rain gardens and curb bump-outs to make intersections safer (Lancaster, PA is an example).
 - GO MAINE provides FREE ride matching for carpoolers, and rewards people for taking greener trips.

View the full summary of the event including presenter's slides, handouts, resources, actions we can take, and more ideas from attendees: <https://abcbdelfast.omeka.net/items/show/134>



Learn more & take action:



Are you interested in active transit by boat?

Please take the **Belfast Harbor Small Boat Survey** to share your input!

Walk & Roll Belfast

A new group "Walk & Roll Belfast" will help citizens create more active transit in our community.

SIGN UP to be added to the list!
walkandrollbelfast@gmail.com

Interested in learning how to effectively communicate about climate change and participate in local solutions?

Climate Ambassadors

Online session, free and open to all!
March 2 - 30, 2023
Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Join the **Statewide Climate Ambassadors Program!**

Online sessions starting March 9 through April 6 with weekly meetings from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. each Thursday.

Upcoming Events

Community Composting: Panel Discussion

Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Rx for a Chaotic Climate: Healthy Soils

Tuesday, March 28th, 2023 at at 6:30 pm on Zoom

Go to www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-events
or call Brenda Harrington at 207-338-3884 ext. 30 to learn more.

Sign up to receive this newsletter by email: www.belfastlibrary.org/abcd-newsletter

The All of Belfast: Climate Dialogues (ABCD) project is capturing community perspectives - photographs, written stories, videos and more - on the ABCD website. This collection will help increase our awareness of each others' experiences, create a point of reference for the future, and perhaps prompt us to take action now in preparation for the challenges ahead. This project of the Belfast Free Library was made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS grant number: APP-246100-OLS-20. Read the proposal on the IMLS website.

