

METRO

Greater Portland Transit District

7/11 due

June 23, 2011

Nathan Poore
Town Manager
Falmouth Town Hall
271 Falmouth Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Dear Nathan:


The Maine State Legislature recently approved legislation allowing municipalities the option to subsidize publicly owned bus stops through advertising. I am including a copy of the bill with summary as an attachment to this correspondence.

This bill, approved in May, would be effective in late September and will provide a much needed revenue source for Greater Portland Transit District METRO and other transit agencies throughout Maine. Additional bus shelters along our routes, installed as a result of this new legislation, would also enhance bus service and promote public transportation. The bill states that revenue collected must be used for transportation purposes.

The District Finance Committee has asked me to follow up with our three member municipalities of Westbrook, Portland and Falmouth to advise us of any possible restrictions that may exist that will prevent us from moving forward with plans to sell advertising and install additional bus shelters. The Committee recommends that the three member municipalities join forces to discuss the ramifications and opportunities that accompany this bill and follow up by July 29 with a collective reply. This timeline will allow METRO board and staff to review advertising guidelines and act on the legislation as soon as possible.

To help with your communication efforts, I have listed contact information at the bottom of this letter for Colleen Hilton, Mayor of Westbrook, and Patricia Finnigan, Acting City Manager, Portland. They have each received a similar communication from me about this legislation.

Very respectfully,



David Redlefsen
General Manager, METRO (207-774-0351 / dredlef@gpmetrobus.com)

Colleen Hilton, Mayor of Westbrook, Westbrook City Hall, 2 York St., Westbrook, ME 04092
Phone: 207-591-8110 / E-Mail: chilton@westbrook.me.us

Patricia Finnigan, City Manager's Office, Room 208, 389 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 207-874-8684 / E-Mail: pfinnigan@portlandmaine.gov

c.c. Michael Foley, METRO Board President; David Marshall, METRO Board Treasurer