

**Caity Gildart**

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**From:** Julia Ryan <jryan120@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 7:27 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Rate changes seem reasonable and more efficient

To Whom it May Concern:

The shift to the use of seasonal and annual passes, and providing discounts associated with those passes, makes economic sense for CBL. These passes also allow efficient provision of discounts to island residents, while charging non-resident market rates. It is my understanding that almost 70% of island residents now have either seasonal and annual passes, combined with senior and ADA discounts, their fares (for the distance travelled) are now below a NYC subway fare. Considering the capital intensive nature of running the ferry system and moving cars as well, these rates seem very reasonable.

Kudos to the committee for all their hard work and thoughtful approach to addressing the fare system at CBL.

Sincerely,

Julia M. Ryan  
39 Oaklawn Road  
Peaks Island

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Colleen Bate <colleenbate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:06 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Rate Change

Hello,

I am personally reaching out to you as Direct Descendant of the 8th ME. Regiment on Peaks. We are a Living Museum and Lodge. The 8th ME. Was Incorporated in 1872 as an Association. The Building was built so the Veterans could hold Reunions every Year and even have a place during the Summer to see each other. Today, we hold Events, parties, take part in Peaks Fest and many Celebrations. We have 15 Rooms available for Lodging. We Love to continue to keep our Rooms FULL! We are Open from July - September.

The 8th ME. Regiments still holds its annual Reunions today. The only one in the Untied States. We are a Non-profit. The stress and idea of increasing rates to \$190.00 is not ideal to any Business on the Island. Everyone will lose Business including yourself. The Public will definitely choose to seek alternative ways to come to Peaks and maybe choose to come Explore Battery Steel, come for a Tour at the 8th, and Maybe just maybe have a enough change for an Ice cream. Maybe they will just choose to come over for dinner, but, I am sure they wont be driving over. Maybe, they will decrease all together.

At the 8th, we have last minute phone calls asking for a room for the night...and yes, driving over because nothing is available around the Old Port. We are very affordable at the 8th and a unique place to stay where everything in the Building has a story for our Descendants.

I am so afraid of the large increase, our 8th ME. could suffer from decreased Membership and lack of support from the Public. Please, please be gentle and slow on the Rate change.

Sincerely heartfelt 8th ME. Descendant, Colleen Bate Sent from my iPhone

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**Caity Gildart**

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**From:** Jill Keefe <jkeefe2000@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:48 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Vehicle rate change

To the Board of Directors,

As a year-round island resident, I understand that any change in rates can be difficult for those of us who rely on the ferry service, but I believe the current proposals strike a reasonable balance between keeping the service affordable while covering the costs need to maintain and operate reliable service.

One aspect I want to highlight is the new Discount Pass option. I already find the existing passenger pass to be a good value, and the proposal builds on that by offering additional benefits and helping to help keep my costs predictable. For around \$100 to \$200 more per year, I can continue to travel with my vehicle at rates close to what I'm paying now, which makes a lot of sense for how I use the ferry.

It's also worth noting that the proposal expands discounted travel days from just Wednesdays to Sunday through Wednesday. That's a meaningful improvement. It helps reduce midweek congestion and gives islanders more flexibility to plan around their own schedules — which I know I, and many other people will appreciate. Yes, my total annual cost might go up slightly under the new structure, but in my view, it's a fair and manageable increase that reflects the real costs of operating this essential service. I support these changes as part of a thoughtful and forward-looking effort to keep Casco Bay Lines running reliably for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jill Keefe

Sent from my iPhone

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Mason Norton  
149 Maine Street, #204  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
[masonnorton@gmail.com](mailto:masonnorton@gmail.com)  
207-712-6400

May 8, 2025

Board of Directors  
Casco Bay Island Transit District  
56 Commercial Street  
Portland, ME 04101

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing as a former Peaks Island resident and wheelchair user to express my support for the proposed vehicle fare rate changes that would preserve a fixed, affordable rate for vehicles used by passengers with disabilities.

As a person living with a disability, the ability to bring a vehicle onboard the ferry has been essential to maintaining my independence. Peaks Island's geography, with its steep inclines upon arrival, uneven roads, and limited sidewalk infrastructure, poses daily challenges for manual wheelchair users like me and others with mobility impairments. These obstacles become even more unmanageable during winter months and periods of inclement weather, making it nearly impossible to travel safely without a vehicle.

While local transportation alternatives are available for residents and visitors, such as the island taxi or golf cart rentals, these services are inaccessible for all individuals using mobility aids. They do not accommodate wheelchairs and cannot offer the independence or reliability that a personal, accessible vehicle provides.

Many seniors, particularly those with health or mobility challenges, rely on the car ferry because they cannot safely travel as walk-on passengers. For senior and disabled residents and visitors, including myself, a personal, accessible vehicle is not a convenience, but a necessity to maintain access to healthcare, services, and their communities.

Maintaining a fixed rate for vehicles used by passengers with disabilities ensures equity, safety, and access. I urge the Board to uphold this essential support as part of the revised fare structure, so that those who depend on their vehicles for safe and accessible travel are not disproportionately impacted.

Thank you for considering the needs of disabled islanders and visitors in your decision-making.

Sincerely,  
Mason Norton

## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Peter Robinson <Peter@robinsonandson.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:11 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Rates

I would like to share my views as an island property owner but not a full time resident. I commend CBL for running a complex transportation system effectively. Here are my comments:

- 1) the budget gap must be closed, ASAP since federal support at least for the next three years is unlikely.
  - 2) Margaret Kelsey's comments on Next Door are excellent and should be read by all of the board and management.
  - 3) Margaret's suggestion of a percentage increase across the board is sensible in its simplicity and would seemingly make sense. The amount of rise needed could be backed into expected traffic to set the appropriate percentage.
  - 4) it is impossible to please everyone( maybe no one) when faced with a significant rate increase.
  - 5) it is essential to protect Island full time residents to the fullest extent allowed by law.
- Good luck to the management and board in trying to thread this difficult needle.  
Sent from my iPhone

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Mark Micheli <markfmicheli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:36 AM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Questions

I attended your last meeting and hope to do so again this Friday but have a couple of questions:

1. When would the new rates go into effect?
2. Is the board still considering a reservation system for cars and if so, when would that start?
3. Has the board considered the flat increase proposal of 25-43 percent? If so, would it achieve the same financial goals?

I'm sorry if these questions have already been answered. I've been trying to follow this issue but have missed a few things and would like to get caught up.

Any information you can provide is appreciated.

Thanks again,

--Mark Micheli  
Peaks Island, Maine

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