Casco Bay Island Transit District – Finance Committee

Large Vehicle Rate Workshop

November 19, 2025

Continuing 2nd Phase of Discussion from Vehicle rate change started October 1, 2024

Workshop Background 11/19/25

- CBL board is a fiduciary board
  - Ongoing attention by board to CBL financial health, direction to reduce the operating deficit that had grown to -$4.5m in FY 2023
  - -$4.5m deficit was unprecedented outside of covid years supported by CARES Act
  - Deficit reduction focused on:
    - Long overdue revenue increases: fares for scheduled service had not been increased in 15 years
    - Expense reduction
- Finance Committee undertook fare review for 3 scheduled service components in order of contribution to CBL revenues
  - Passenger fares: started in 2023, passenger fares restructured around passes for islanders and frequent visitors, with higher fares for single tickets, implemented 6/1/2024
  - Vehicle fares: started 10/2024, followed successful passenger restructuring with proposal that carried forward the pass based discount to support lower fares for islanders and those who provide services to the island or visit frequently, with 90 day option for summer islanders, implemented 6/21/25
    - Commercial/large vehicle rates were temporarily increased 23% across the board with restructuring postponed in April 2025 to allow more time for input from public and CBL operations
- Large vehicle rate restructuring discussions resumed 7/23/25

10 Year Summary Operating Loss/Surplus

Operating Surplus / (Loss)		
Fiscal Year	Amount	% Change
FY15	($1,419,868)	
FY16	($1,406,368)	1.00%
FY17	($1,579,850)	-12.30%
FY17B	$224,471	114.20%
FY18	($1,596,431)	-811.20%
FY19	($2,418,995)	-51.50%
FY20	($4,589,585)	-89.70%
FY21	($5,813,449)	-26.67%
FY22	($4,454,193)	23.38%
FY23	($4,477,246)	-0.52%
FY24	($3,629,854)	18.93%

Proposal Presented at Finance Committee meeting 11/12/25

CBL Finance Committee: monthly meetings

- 2nd Wed 07:45 in terminal & online
  - Meetings open, public is welcome
  - Online option: you can join without coming on the 7:15
  - Materials can be reviewed in advance, questions are welcome!
  - Board members are elected officials, available and eager for input
  - Written comments also welcomed and considered
- Priorities and themes since 2022
  - Explain CBL finances & flag issues to board and the public
    - Flat revenues, no fare increase in 15 years: implement smaller, incremental increases
    - Expense growth at 2x inflation: reduce

Goal: Prudently reduce deficit while maintaining compliance with and access to grant funding to help offset operating expenses

Background: CBL Enabling Legislation

Sec 1. Transit District in Casco Bay created. ...do all things necessary to furnish waterborne transportation... including incidental tour and charter service, for public purposes in the interest of ... the inhabitants of the islands comprising the district.

Sec 8. Directors may establish such routes and shall fix such rates of fare to be charged for such public transportation service as shall to the extent possible reasonably assure sufficient income to meet the cost of the service.

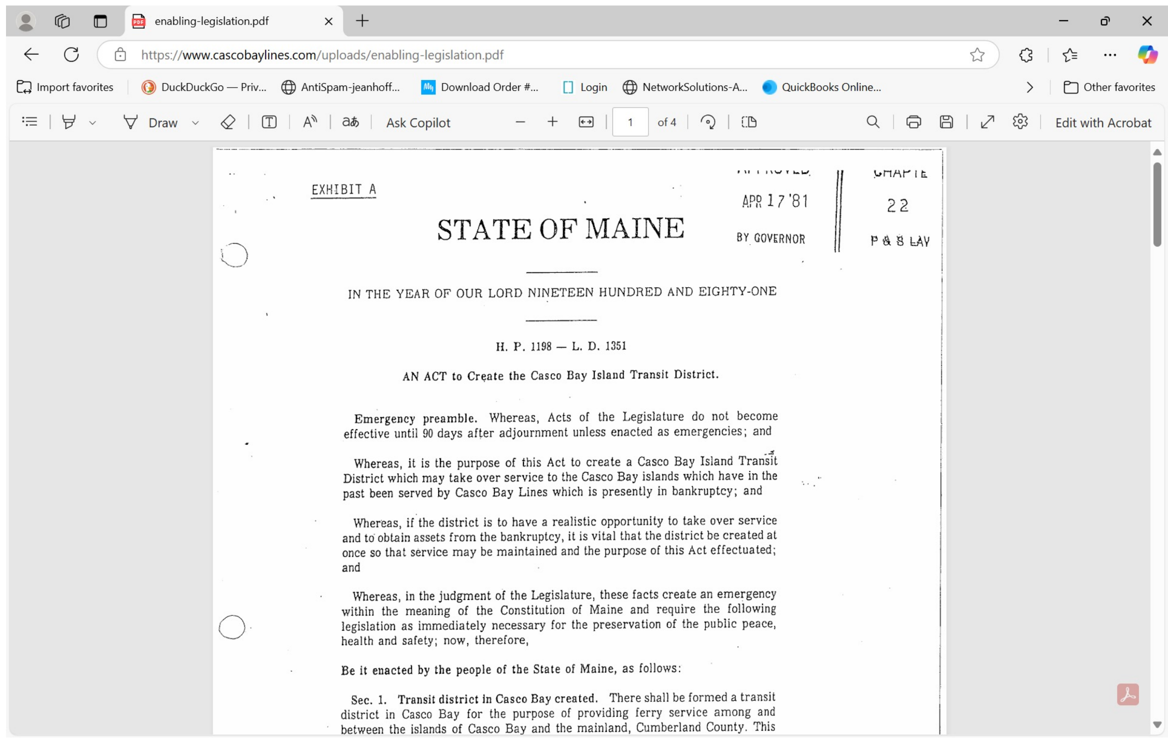

EXHIBIT A

APR 17 '81
BY GOVERNOR

22
P & S LAW

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

H. P. 1198 — L. D. 1351

AN ACT to Create the Casco Bay Island Transit District.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is the purpose of this Act to create a Casco Bay Island Transit District which may take over service to the Casco Bay islands which have in the past been served by Casco Bay Lines which is presently in bankruptcy; and

Whereas, if the district is to have a realistic opportunity to take over service and to obtain assets from the bankruptcy, it is vital that the district be created at once so that service may be maintained and the purpose of this Act effectuated; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Transit district in Casco Bay created. There shall be formed a transit district in Casco Bay for the purpose of providing ferry service among and between the islands of Casco Bay and the mainland, Cumberland County. This

enabling-legislation.pdf

Next Steps

- Public input and feedback are critical parts of committee and board consideration of proposal – comments still being welcomed
- Next Steps:
  - Workshop tomorrow at Board meeting 11/20/25
  - December Finance Committee meeting: tentatively planning workshop and vote to recommend to Board
  - December Board meeting: tentatively planning hearing and vote
- Written comments may be submitted to: ratechange@cascobaylines.com
- Talk to your elected Board members