

**CASCO BAY ISLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING OF**

May 9, 2025

56 Commercial Street, Portland, ME

In Person/Video Conference/Phone

*Video of entire meeting is online [here](https://vimeo.com/showcase/11470098?share=copy).

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11470098?share=copy>

	Webex	<u>Attendance</u> In Person	Phone	Absent
<i>Directors:</i>				
Lavanture (Pres)		X		
Donovan (1 st VP)		X		
Pizey (2 nd VP)				
Hoffman (Treasurer)		X		
Luedke (Clerk)		X		
Higgins (Asst. Clrk)		X		
Cooper				X
Belesca	X			
Cohen		X		
Crowley	X			
Murray		X		
Geary				X

Staff:

C. Gildart		X		
Mavodones		X		
Bowie		X		
Bryand		X		

Public:

Ross Sneyd		X		
Barring Coughlin			X	
Michelle Winchester		X		
Anne Coughlin			X	
Bill Hall			X	
Mark Rogus			X	
Mary Lou Wendell			X	
Keith Hults		X		
Julia Nord			X	
Margaret Kelsey			X	
Alex Weber			X	
Andrea Kelly Rosenberg		X		

Jesse Williams		X		
Stephen Mohr		X		
Call In User 1			X	
Call In User 2			X	
Call In User 3			X	
Call In User 4			X	
Call In User 5			X	
Call In User 6			X	
Call In User 7			X	
Call In User 8			X	
Call In User 9			X	
Call In User 10			X	
Call In User 11			X	
Call In User 12			X	
Call In User 13			X	
Call in User 14			X	

1. Call to Order

- a. President Lavanture called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM.
- b. It was noted the meeting is being recorded

2. Business

- a. Lavanture gave overview, noting this is Step 2 in multi-phase approach to address operating loss via revenue increase and expense reduction. Passenger fares changed in 2024 for the first time in 15 years, resulting in increased revenues while protecting affordability for islanders and frequent riders. Discussed meetings held to date and modeling and analysis approach.
- b. Hoffman moved recommended proposal as presented and as voted on by the finance committee (noting it was not unanimous), Higgins Seconded. Lavanture called for public comment.
- c. Public Comment
 - i. Andrea Kelly Rosenberg – Peaks Island
 - ii. Stephen Mohr – Peaks Island
 - iii. Keith Hults – Peaks Island
 - iv. Jesse Williams – Peaks Island
 - v. Michelle Winchester – Peaks Island
 - vi. Barring Coughlin – Peaks Island
 - vii. Margaret Kelsey – Peaks Island
 - viii. Mark Rogus – Peaks Island
 - ix. Mary Lou Wendell – Peaks Island
 - x. Bill Hall – Peaks Island

- d. Lavanture closed public comment and open the floor for Directors discussion
- e. Directors Comment
 - i. Hoffman – Finance Committee has committed to addressing commercial rates, commercial vehicle revenues represents only about 16% of vehicle revenue.
 - ii. Crowley – would like to support this but can't because of fairness between commercial and non-commercial rates.
 - iii. Higgins – appreciates the islanders who are here and those who have given opinions. Role is to ensure organization remains viable and sustainable and provide service to all islands. The second is as a representative of Peaks to ensure the source of changes are reasonable for Peaks Islanders.
 - iv. Cohen – Who are we leaving out? We are leaving out people with monthly passes, hourly workers, many students in their 20's and 30's. We are not charging enough for our commercial rates. The whole concept is flawed.
 - v. Lavanture – acknowledge this an incremental step towards commercial vehicles and Finance Committee set forth plan to implement that. Commercial vehicles are a small contributor to revenue and commercial rates end up getting passed through to islanders. Supportive of two tier system and acknowledge there is more work to do.
 - vi. Hoffman – As Chair of Finance Committee and as islands at large representative, takes that duty seriously and look at overall sustainability of the District. Interacted with lots of people on Peaks and wouldn't advocate for something that wasn't in the best interest of Peaks Island. Plan is good for the District and Peaks Island.
 - vii. Luedke – really not ok with massive price increase for non-pass holders, doesn't sit well and dollar amount is much too high. Puts burden of raising revenue on non-pass holders. Thinks good work went in to this proposal. Would like Board to strongly consider alternate scenario, thinks there is not an emergency currently for a drastic rate increase.
- f. Luedke moved to make an amendment, seconded by Murray, for the Board to consider the alternate scenario (proposal two or \$170 peak season general ticket rate).
- g. Public comment on proposed amendment (alternate proposal)
 - i. Margaret Kelsey – Peaks Island
 - ii. Mary Lou Wendell – Peaks Island

- iii. Alex Weber – Peaks Island
 - iv. Michelle Winchester – Peaks Island
 - v. Keith Hults – Peaks Island
 - vi. Anne Coughlin – Peaks Island
- h. Director comment on proposed amendment
 - i. Belesca- it has been a lengthy process and would like to commend finance committee. Appreciates effort to provide an alternate but can no support it at this time. Sees path forward with commercial vehicles and arrival of the Battery Steele.
 - ii. Donovan – Long Island rep and duties go strongly to issues of revenue to keep District viable. Peaks and Downbay islands have same issue of affordability and keeping people on the island. Still thinks proposed rates are extremely high. Cheaper to bring commercial vehicle down than a car and that doesn't sit well.
- i. Donovan moved an amendment to Luedke's amendment, seconded by Cohen, to adopt for the fiscal year a straight 23% increase to all vehicles, including commercial vehicles. Amendment failed 5-5 (Murray, Luedke, Cohen, Crowley, and Donovan voted in favor; Lavanture, Hoffman, Belesca, Higgins and Pizey voted against)
- j. Hoffman moved an amendment to Luedke's amendment, seconded by Higgins, to continue with the \$190 rate during Peak season and adopt an alternate rate of \$70 on Sunday through Wednesday and \$100 on Thursday through Sunday during off-peak season. Amendment failed 5-5 (Lavanture, Hoffman, Belesca, Higgins and Pizey voted in favor; Murray, Luedke, Cohen, Crowley and Donovan voted against)
 - i. Public Comment on proposed amendment
 - 1. Margaret Kelsey – Peaks Island
 - 2. Barring Coughlin – Peaks Island
 - 3. Mark Rogus – Peaks Island
- k. Donovan requested a vote to call the question and vote on the Luedke amendment. The call to question passed 8-2 (Luedke, Cohen voted against; Lavanture, Hoffman, Belesca, Higgins, Pizey, Crowley, Donovan, Murray voted in favor).
- l. The Luedke amendment (to adopt the alternate scenario) failed 5-5 (Murray, Luedke, Crowley, Donovan, Pizey voted in favor; Lavanture, Hoffman, Cohen, Belesca and Higgins voted against)
- m. Donovan moved an amendment, seconded by Belesca, to increase the bottom rates for commercial vehicles to align with lower passenger vehicle rates and adjust the rest of the vehicle rates accordingly using proposal two (\$170 peak season general rate ticket). The amendment passed 6-4

(Murray, Luedke, Belesca, Crowley, Donovan, Pizey voted in favor;
Lavanture, Hoffman, Cohen and Higgins voted against)

i. Public Comment on the proposed amendment

1. Jesse Williams – Peaks Island

n. Higgins moved to postpone action on this item until Friday, May 16th at 7:45 AM. Murray seconded. The motion passed unanimously of those present (Lavanture, Murray, Hoffman, Luedke, Cohen, Crowley, Donovan, Higgins, Pizey)

o. Adjourn

i. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting; Donovan seconded. The vote was unanimous of those present (Lavanture, Murray, Hoffman, Luedke, Crowley, Donovan, Higgins, Pizey)