

4/13/2026

I am a resident of Peaks Island and am very concerned about the fare increases. I am retired and plan to live on Peaks for the rest of my life. It has become expensive for my friends and family to visit, so they do it less often. I hesitate to invite a friend over for the day because I feel between parking and the cost of a ticket, they are doing me a favor. This is not what I pictured when I retired.

There must be another way to resolve the deficit issue.

Patricia Ashton

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To the Casco Bay Board,

As a resident of Peaks Island I am struggling to understand the continued increase in ticket prices after a 100% increase of the rate prior. Is there no accommodation for the island resident who can not financially justify the cost for the year round pass?

These continued upward adjustments (much higher than inflation or wage growth) are not in the best interest of the island residents. Please utilize common sense with these adjustments moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Greg Barnhill

Peaks island

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As you may recognize, I “attend” (virtually) nearly all the CBITD meetings.

Although I never comment, I do observe and absorb.

In 2024, when passenger fares were being examined after a long period without a fare increase, I was impressed by the care and consideration that went into each workshop. Comments, concerns, and suggestions were weighed and often-times woven into the final proposal.

And even though it was determined that accommodation couldn't legally be made at that time to give a break for visits from Peaks Islanders' friends and family, the question of how to do so was left on the table for future analysis.

I was stunned that those increased fares were already subject to review and raise, even as tariffs for freight are still to be determined in your overall reconfigurations. And this is hard on the heels of the vehicle tariff increase.

Option A, which added a provision for discounted “friends and family” tickets helped to make another increase palatable, but with this option eliminated, I find the new round of passenger increases intolerable.

These discounts are absolutely essential to maintain social and familial ties on Peaks Island. Tying them to annual passes makes the extra cost prohibitive.

The CBITD should prioritize accommodation so that one can maintain island life. The constant barrage of increasing charges just to get home or have visits from family is unsustainable for those on a fixed income. Couldn't discounted tickets be offered to those who get the peak season Residential Boarding Passes, as these already have the application caveat of needing a Peaks address.

You can't keep slamming island residents for constantly increasing outlays of cash. It's time for a moratorium until all the tariffs are stabilized (passenger, vehicle, and freight), with more regular increases being considered at the same time for all these tiers of service. When rates go up for one, they go up for all — probably tied to inflation and cost-of-living rates.

Thank you.

Lynn Heinemann

417 Island Ave.

Peaks Island

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4/20/2026

I understand the need to raise the single ticket rate, but wish the family & friends discount pack was still on the table. That would take a little sting out of the increase.

Tamsen Towle

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4/18/2026

Hello CBL,

I am new to Peaks Island since September, when I started a teaching job on island. I officially moved here in October. Because of the specific circumstances of my hiring (I started as a commuter from the mainland,) I have a ferry pass through the end of the school year.

After the school year ends I will rely solely on the one ferry ticket you can get weekly from the food pantry to travel off island.

My friends can't afford to visit me here, I can't afford to pay for them, and soon it'll be a financial strain to go off island to visit them.

Seven dollars was doable in the winter, would've been doable in the summer. Seventeen is nearly an hour of my pay.

My question is why is there no low income rate? For passes or single tickets?

I find it frustrating when people say that because there's been no noticeable change in the numbers of ridership and vehicles that these measures are considered successful. I think people will be coming in and out no matter how expensive it is. The quiet difference that those numbers don't tell is who is coming, how much disposable income they have.

I really like living here. I want to keep living here. If rates keep going up low income people like me are gonna be priced off the island. So are low income visitors, family and friends.

Thank you for your time, and my sincere appreciation for everyone putting time and effort into these matters,

Seramay Schultz

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4/17/2026

Dear Board,

These continual rate increases deter young families who want to stay connected to the mainland. They also make it less affordable for family members and friends to visit the island. Before the increases, friends would come out for game nights, tennis, or barbecues. We spent time with their kids as they explored Peaks. The same was true for our family—they would stay overnight or come out for a few hours to watch a basketball game or share a family dinner.

Since the rate increases, these visits have become less frequent. More often, we find ourselves leaving the island instead, and with the proposed increases, that trend will likely continue. We bought our home with the hope of creating memories with the people we love.

Casco Bay Lines isn't public transportation anymore. It's privatized transportation for islanders who can afford the annual pass and for tourists. Public transportation is for everyone.

Christine Moylan

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4/16/2026

The Fifth Maine Museum became a nonprofit community center in the 1950's and has historically purchased tickets for docents and other mainland volunteers and CBL has historically refused to discount rides for documented nonprofit needs. Balancing an also historically mismanaged budget practically overnight on the backs of voices that go unheard or are often unaware is not a community-centered solution to a problem built up over years if not decades. Let's see and hear a process that takes in the entire impact of rate increases which will come down on CBL as it reshapes what it means to be an island resident, visitor, business owner and nonprofit cultural asset in Casco Bay

Jane Banquer

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Hello

Seasonal property owner here. Email follow up for April 23, meeting.

I propose Option C. No rate change for 2026.

1. What has changed to justify increase in fares since last increase? At that time it was proposed that subsidies etc would diminish. Has that happened? Looks like deficit is moving in right direction.
2. I am concerned that Peaks Island community is becoming inaccessible to more folks. Could there be a passenger cheap rate day or days? Not only for visitors, family and friend but residents doc visits, errands etc.

Wilcox

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The most important change to the ferry rate structure is to offer the friends and family discount! Adult children/grandchildren are penalized by the high single trip rate. The option to buy 12 off-season rate tickets is a nice concession to meeting the needs of island families. The goodwill far outweighs the minimal financial repercussions to CBL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Beth Rand

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4/15/2026

They were 16 and 17. I experienced idyllic summers from my first trip at 5 weeks old. Both sets of grandparents and all my cousins were here. We would come the day after school closed and go back the day before school started again. Our mother's stayed here and the fathers would arrive Fridays for the weekend.

Now I pay the taxes to keep for my son to enjoy and I still get to see my brother and cousins here.

I am now retired and want family and friends to feel they can visit. Shouldn't taxpayers who need to go off island for appts and supplies get a break?

This (almost) 73 year old still cherishes her time on Peaks.

Susan M (Bunton) Lyons

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4/15/2026

The rates are too high as it is ...and year-round islanders like myself and my three young adult children cannot afford to pay these rates.

Only one of us needs and benefits from a commuter pass. The rest of us are subject to these preposterous daily ticket rates.

Mary Lou Wendell

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