

Caity Gildart

From: Martha Daligan <daliganma@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:37 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate changes

Dear Casco Bay lines,

I don't know if you think all the people living on Peaks Island are millionaires...we are not. Many of us are simple working people just trying to get by, earn a living and support our family. For someone who doesn't own a car in town and needs to take their vehicle off island once a week for work purposes, hardware store, garden store, etc...these rate changes are a huge obstacle. Topped with having to buy a 90 day pass plus \$ 100 on top of it. ...really??? I depended on having one day a week (Wed. That is affordable...) What the heck is happening here... you really can't make your budget with what you're charging already??? This is the nail in the coffin as far as staying on the island...We just can't afford to live here anymore. I've lived and worked on the island for 46 years..arrived in 1989....married here, raised my children....this is not an affordable rate for islanders..you are increasingly greedy and catering to extracting as much \$ as possible from whoever steps on this island...for my son and his wife to visit for an afternoon the cost starts at \$30 for tickets . Sadly , we will not be living here much longer. These rate hikes really hit home and make the simplest things like going to doctor appts to buy supplies from town almost impossible.I don't know who you think is living on the island right now...we are not all millionaires and I strongly oppose these hikes..and getting rid of the one car ferry day that is affordable thru the summer.Sincerely, Martha Daligan

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Caity Gildart

From: Anderson, Steve <Steve-Anderson@idexx.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:12 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Support the rate changes

I support the changes as proposed. Please make sure to socialize clearly that this is a result of the uncertainty coming from the current administration - people need to understand CBL is dependent on grant funding for operations and that funding is no longer guaranteed.

Thx

Steve
Steve Anderson
Head of Global People Analytics
IDEXX Laboratories
https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__LinkedIn.com_in_stephenmanderson&d=DwIFAg&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=KU4O9oNr6jS8UGnNiw5DnEKWrGNQfer-Z5iVLirfLj8&m=4a90qtURtMKWSLcbpP-6BO4-UZui4xoT2t_sPJuoRmUQCzDIMPVgV0-AmoWFm4j0&s=VvYuj3vvFMZsc4FNNZOpaANAwD5PZwEDO7FhExKGpnOY&e=

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Caity Gildart

From: Linda Grant <liamharr6@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 7:22 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: New Vehicle Boat to Peaks - Prices

New boat or not ... these prices will ultimately mean fewer people will be able to afford them!

Linda Grant

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Caity Gildart

From: Lisa Houston <lhouston@pennington.org>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 8:08 AM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jason Harding
Subject: Vehicle Rates for Travel to Peaks Island

Hello-

My husband Jason Harding and I are homeowners on Peaks Island and summer residents, however, we travel to the island sporadically at other times of year.

We are writing to express our concern over the newly proposed vehicle rates.

First of all, we appreciate the consistent service that the bay lines provide to all island residents -- we recognize the rising costs, coupled with federal loss of funds to the bay lines.

That being said, we find the proposed plan to be unsustainable for our family on the island. As residents who are not in Maine full time, we have limited parking options in Portland and we have used the discounted Wed rates to move our cars back and forth for many reasons - most of them being medical issues, purchasing for our house (large appliances, etc.), and emergency travel. We are not whimsical in our use of the car ferry.

We see the option here for using the Peaks V Pass for time periods to then be able to secure discounted rates, however, this still seems extravagant to us, given that we would most likely only use the 90 day pass option for summer, and then be required to pay full price at other times of year.

The passenger rates going up last summer were problematic for us, although we were able to use 30 day passes to offset some of those costs.

These hikes seem exorbitant.

We hope that Casco Bay Lines will consider that there are a range of customers using the ferry and that summer residents who are able to return to the island throughout the year may find this unsustainable. It doesn't make sense for us to purchase the year-long pass, or multiple 90-day passes.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Houston and Jason Harding

--

Lisa L. Houston (she/her/hers)
Director of Advisory and Student Activities
Class Dean 2028
T: 609-559-5309
T, on campus: ext. 739



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL
112 West Delaware Avenue
Pennington, NJ 08534-0601
www.pennington.org

Caity Gildart

From: Foxfire Buck <foxfirebuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 8:20 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Comments in favor of vehicle price increases

Good morning,

I'm a year round Peaks Island resident, and I'm in support of the proposed rate changes. In my family, we have two young children, so yes, there are times we need to just bring the car across.

That being said, I am strongly in favor of the vehicular rate increases the board is proposing. There are simply far too many cars on the island, and it is far too easy to come and go with vehicles unnecessarily. When the Machigonne gets dry docked in the spring, it is, frankly, a relief. Down front feels safer for my kids. I recognize that there will still be cars coming and going, but if a price increase will have any deterrent effect on traffic, that's a good thing.

The Vpass addition to the annual pass or 90-day pass is a perfect way to get around the hardship for islanders who truly need to come and go with any frequency. In fact, I think that honestly makes it more affordable if the numbers I read for the associated discounted tickets are implemented in the \$50-60 range. If people can't afford the \$100 additional up-front fee, there could be a fund established, or existing funds could be added to the Loretta Voyer fund. Islanders will absolutely chip in, myself included, to help pay that fee for year-rounders experiencing financial hardship or for islanders relying on fixed incomes.

Please don't let the outcry pertaining to people's beloved off-island contractors distract from the real goals of sustaining Peaks as a viable year-round community for families and maintaining CBL as a financially-solvent entity. It seems like island contractors will benefit from the Vpass system as well, and this will enable our island contractors to continue to run thriving businesses.

There are lots of people on the island who are going about their daily lives, whose opinions the vocal minority do not represent.

As long as there's some kind of Vpass plan like the one included now, the proposed rate increases seem fair, necessary, and reasonable.

Thank you,

Foxfire

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Caity Gildart

From: Meghan Casey <megcasey207@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Vehicle rate for island workers

Hi,

After looking over the new vehicle passenger rates for Peaks, I have a concern. Many islanders need to use contractors from the mainland for home repairs, home renovations, even car repair at times. (and likely for other items, like people with serious illnesses who may need practitioners to make house calls). It does not seem like there is any provision for contractors (construction, medical, or otherwise) coming to the island to serve island residents.

If a contractor is coming out for, say five days (short for most construction), in peak season (when most outdoor work is done) they would either need to buy \$190 daily ticket, or by a passenger pass for 90 days (cost not announced yet), plus \$100, plus \$82.00 for tickets. The former choice will add \$450 to the cost of a five day project. The second would add an indeterminate amount since the pass fares are not set, but currently it would be \$244 more for five days.

Neither of these amounts are too high, but they directly impact ONLY islander homeowners or renters. Obviously a day trippers or weekly renters would not be having contractors work done on Peaks.

I also think the new rate will negatively impact islanders who have older or disabled family/friends who need a vehicle to come out to visit the island.

I wonder if Peaks passenger pass holders, or Peaks residents/homeowners, could be allowed five or so "islander rate tickets" per year to allow for contractors or disabled/older guests to come out. They could be color coded so that CBL knew they were guest tickets, and the CBL computer system could keep track of whether each Peaks passenger passholder had bought their five guest tickets that year or not.

That sounds complicated. All of this is complicated. But each of these small steps that make Peaks more expensive to live on year round have an impact. They push Peaks closer to being an island for wealthy people only--whether summer or year round. I know that is not the intent, and I know that CBL can no longer run at a deficit, but please consider the needs of islanders along with the needs of CBL. Without CBL there will be no Peaks, but without Peaks being a year round community, there will also be no CBL.

Of course, we should be subsidized by the city, as the Metro is, but that is another fight....

Meghan Casey
(207) 233-6985
Peaks Address:
35 Winding Way

So

Caity Gildart

From: James Williams <echolodgeonpeaks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:19 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Upcoming rate change

I just wanted to express my disappointment at the proposed 230% increase in auto rates to the island. My mother, who grew up seasonally on the island, currently lives on an island in Lake Michigan that is served by a similar ferry line. Despite the 4.5 mile "open-sea" voyage and operating 5 large car ferries (including two ice breakers), her round trip auto rate is only \$30. Clearly there is something amiss with the business model at Casco Bay Lines, and I don't think a massive fare increase will solve the issue.

On top of the increased cost just to access the island, the trickle-down effect to all goods and services will force long-time residents to make difficult decisions. As a 3rd generation seasonal resident, it has become clear that Peaks Island will only be accessible to the wealthy in the future.

I implore you to work harder on this issue to find a better solution, as well as communicate more directly and openly about this issue with all stake-holders on the island.

Regards,

--

James and Holly Williams
Echo Lodge - Peaks Island, ME
Cell: 920-362-7400

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Caity Gildart

From: Hugh Carroll <carrollbroconstruction@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 8:28 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate Change

I think you already knew what the reaction to the proposed rate hikes would be. So are you actually going to take anyone's opinions seriously, or are you just encouraging people to email you their concerns to say you did?

I'd take the time to explain my concerns if I thought anyone was listening, but based on my experience with governance I don't expect much.

Sincerely,
Hugh

Sent from my iPhone

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Caity Gildart

From: D.E. Van Dyk <tkvandyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 11:36 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Peaks Island fare proposal for vehicles

Hi, I've looked at the recent proposal for vehicle rates and have a couple of comments. First, the commercial vehicle rates are not clearly stated other than not-by-weight, but by space-taken. Will that be \$190 per space taken? The commercial vehicle rates, as well as noncommercial vehicles with trailers or boats, have been very generous considering spaces taken and failure to clearly state the new rates leave islanders concerned they still won't be fair. Second, island seasonal water is on for ~180 days from May through October. The PeaksVPass is linked to a 90 day or annual pass. I would hope you consider that PVP vehicle discount applicable to two consecutive 90 day passes to benefit seasonal property owners for the entire six months. Third, the initial proposal regarding reservations was bonkers and seemed like it was designed to make life easier for CBL employees rather than fulfill the obligations of CBL pursuant its mission. Good riddance. Lastly, concerns have been expressed about affordability for some disadvantaged residents. Rather than slash fares for the general public, perhaps CBL could provide a means-tested subsidy for the few community members who actually need assistance. Finally, kudos for getting ahead of tenuous federal grant support and best wishes for balancing your budget.

Sincerely, Drew Van Dyk

Seasonal property owner; tax payer; summer resident since 1965 (when I recall vehicle rates on the Rebel were \$3.60).

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Caity Gildart

From: Marcy Appel <marciaappel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: rates proposal

Please provide provision/process for reduced rate vehicle tickets for invited guests of residents.

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Caity Gildart

From: Kathleen Seymour <kbeebster@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Caity Gildart
Subject: Re: News from Casco Bay Lines

The proposed rate hikes are absurd

Kathleen M. Seymour
97 France Road
Barrington, NH 03825

On Mon, Mar 24, 2025 at 2:26 PM Casco Bay Lines <caityb-cascobaylines.com@shared1.ccsend.com> wrote:



March 24, 2025

NOTICE OF UPCOMING CASCO BAY ISLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT MEETINGS

Below is a schedule of upcoming CBITD meetings. Please note that meetings will be held in-person at the Portland terminal with a remote participation option available when indicated. Public participants wishing to access meetings remotely via WebEx should use the information below. The agendas and meeting materials will be posted [here on our website](#). Public input is always welcome.

Special Personnel Committee

Tues., March 25, 9:45 AM

Event address for attendees:

<https://cascobaylines.webex.com/cascobaylines/j.php?MTID=m4ffdoef60b90b750d7e7aae95e82083d>

Event Password: CBL123 (225123 from phones)

Audio conference:

United States Toll

+1-408-418-9388

Meeting Access Code: 2343 040 8584

Board of Directors

Thurs., March 27, 7:45 AM

Event address for attendees:

<https://cascobaylines.webex.com/cascobaylines/j.php?MTID=mf6119e172e55332a05786e6ba1c3f83f>

Caity Gildart

From: Lynn Mittler <lmittler1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 11:43 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: thoughts prior to meeting

First of all, I want to thank CBL and those on the committee for their earnest efforts to serve all of those in Casco Bay. I truly appreciate the work everyone puts in through all types of weather and circumstances.

I wanted to share my thoughts regarding the new car rates. I am deeply concerned that these rates will raise the cost of having work done on the island as well as all retail on the island. There are few businesses as it is, and I worry that this rate increase will drive the few we have out. Additionally, while I always try to employ on island folks for work, there are some jobs that are not available from on-island folks. It is challenging to convince off-island folks to work on Peaks and I think this new rate hike will be an even bigger deterrent.

Finally, I would ask that you consider some type of discount for those who can prove home ownership as well. Unfortunately, I am only able to be on Peaks 8 weeks of the year, but I pay my taxes and support the island year-round. Raising the rates to this level will cause all but the rich (I am a teacher), from being able to sustain life on Peaks (and conversely spend their money in the greater Portland area).

I fully recognize the need to close the deficit, but can the other islands share the burden as well? Can freight go up? Can tickets to farther islands be higher? Over doubling the car rates seems an extreme measure and I hope there is a way to mitigate the impact. Also, the lost of half-rate Wednesday (though I know it caused chaos) is a huge hit and I wonder if this isn't enough to recapture some funds.

Thanks for your time and again, I appreciate the efforts of all involved to try to do the best for CBL and Casco Bay residents.

Sincerely,
Lynn Mittler
(Peaks Island)

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Caity Gildart

From: martha callow <lmartha@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate changes

Sent from my iPad. I am very am very concerned about rate changes as I am way over 65. I go to town rarely but wait hours to be sure to make the boat for doctors appts.especially after April. Those are the concerns I am thinking of now. As for relatives visiting me I can't even imagine the problems!

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Caity Gildart

From: Rick <rebunton@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:26 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate Change Feedback and Suggestions

Our family has summered on Peaks for 5 generations. Our children and grandchildren are now part of that tradition. Many of the homes on Peaks are owned by people like us. Our hearts Peaks. As my daughter said, "we can't sell Peaks, it is the only consistent place we have called home in our lives".

What strikes me the most of your proposed vehicle rate hikes is **that they are designed to convert the island to a place for day and occasional visitors**. Why? Owning a home on Peaks whether you are a full time resident or a dedicated summer resident requires going back and forth to the mainland for supplies, appointments, jobs etc. Owning a home on Peaks means home maintenance expenses and hiring of contractors who regardless if they are Peaks residents or not, have to bring over supplies and will need to pass the increased costs to the homeowners. And to make it worse, if you are a Senior that needs to use the car ferry services more frequently, you are penalized even further.

Is that the real intent? Eliminate the island as a place to live and instead make it a place for corporate investor to buy rental homes and the young and able to enjoy?

So practically, increases are needed but how do you make it better.

1) The Peaks VPass helps so I truly hope you implement it, but it is not enough. If you need a trade off, limit it to families that own property and for full time resident renters on Peaks.

2) A lower rate for Sun-Weds would help those that can at least plan to bring their vehicles over on lower use times. Multiple days will alleviate long lines. We plan everything around lower rate dates already. This reduction helps mostly full time and seasonal residents.

3) A commercial vehicle discount for contractors and service providers who own property on Peaks. This favors the committed Peaks business owners with lower cost, lower charges and more business.

4) Do NOT eliminate the prior to April advance buying! Much of the "set up" and repair for summer residents occurs at this time and it requires multiple trips. It is one of the many things we already do to reduce costs.

Please don't turn the island into a place that only day trippers and weekly summer vacationers can enjoy. Support the full time residents and the families like ours that have invested on the island for generations and support you, the businesses and also the many non profits who need donations and contributions.

Thank you for seeking our input,

Cordially,

Rick Bunton

Caity Gildart

From: Ellen Mahony <ellenamahony@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 7:27 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed Vehicle Charges

Dear Sir/Madam,

I read, with disappointment, the proposed vehicle rate for this year: \$190/2 mile travel. Our family is one of the founding families on Peaks and have supported the island, contributed to its economy for generations. We continue to maintain a year round home on Peaks. We pay taxes, oil, utilities, support the community and... use CBL. We use it all Fall/Winter as well. We are over 65.

During the months of May through October, we look forward to visiting the home every weekend.

For May through October, we would be paying \$760/month and \$4,560.00 for this period.

I could purchase a plane ticket to Europe for less than a CBL ferry ride to Peaks, or, travel around the world for the CBL season charges of \$4,560.00

Does this make any sense? Absolutely not.

At some point, I'll look into the history of CBL, its financial challenges and in light of those challenges, the decision matrix that led to the choice of the new electric vessel with its exorbitant cost and 2+ vehicle capacity- ridiculous. There is a strong sense of poor financial planning/forecasting over a long period.

Presently, I would like to see:

1. the data which support this proposal
2. explanation for the extent of the first rate hike in 15 years
3. costs and rate changes of other CBL island services
4. survey of Peaks Island tax payers on this proposal

Thank you.

In good health,

[Ellen Mahony, MD](#)

Caity Gildart

From: caron chess <caronchess2327@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 5:59 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Large commercial vehicles and other thoughts

Large commercial vehicles. Please figure out a mechanism so these large commercial vehicles that go over with Plante don't clog our line on the way back. Unless they can show a CBL ticket to Peaks, they should not be allowed to return via CBL. Or perhaps there is a better mechanism to keep them from the CBL return line.

Reducing service rather than drastic increase in rates. The rates are prohibitive for many Islanders who go into town infrequently. I think we should cut service so the fare increases are not so great. In the past 10 years many boats have been added. We need to know the number of cars on each boat for peak season so that we can see what can be cut.

Days of the week. Sunday should not be a discount day. We need the tariffs to be higher on the days that Islanders do not need to go into town for medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc.

Extra boats cost money. We should not be sending over extra boats just because tourists are not happy. I know staff do not want to deal with angry tourists. Perhaps our expensive marketing consultant can figure out how to discourage people from taking boats that are routinely busy on good weather days. (Note: Last I was on the marketing committee, I found the communication strategy to be a fire hose, rather than strategically targeted to services that could benefit from more passengers. I think that marketing consulting budget, which was 350,000 per year, should be scrutinized for cuts.)

Federal grants. Islanders have been posting that there is no indication that our federal grants are going away. Is there any information about this?

Thanks for listening

Caron Chess, Peaks

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Caity Gildart

From: sarah moran <whiskerisland@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:59 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed vehicle rate change

I'm writing to express my deep concern over the proposed rate change for vehicle tickets to Peaks Island as outlined on the website, which on the most expensive travel days of the week would double (summer) or triple (winter) the current price to transport one's passenger vehicle to and from the island. The proposal, were it to pass, would additionally rob island residents of their longstanding ability to stock up on affordable winter rate tickets at the close of the off-season, allowing for 60 more days of affordable travel at the beginning of summer. For me, a single person owning a single vehicle which I keep exclusively on-island for business use, who relies heavily on the car ferry to get my one vehicle to and from the mainland on a very occasional basis for necessary medical appointments and the like, this proposal--with its insane, luxury-priced vehicle tickets--feels like a form of punishment for island residents who cannot afford to own, maintain, insure, and garage two different vehicles for island and mainland use.

The proposal outlines a convoluted system by which discounted vehicle tickets might be obtained: first the patron must invest a substantial sum of money into an annual or 90-day passenger pass, whether the patron has any need for a passenger pass or not. On top of this outlay, the passenger would then need to invest another \$100 into an item dubbed "PeaksVPass", which, confusingly, is not actually a pass in the sense established by the already existing passenger pass, but simply a purchase which grants the holder the right to purchase car ferry tickets at a reduced rate. I cannot even begin to imagine the unwieldy signage that would be required at the ticket counter in order to make this entire pricing system, days of the week, passenger pass, vehicle pass, etc intelligible to the general public.

I would suggest the finance committee scrap the idea of the PeaksVPass and explore the idea of selling books of vehicle tickets in order to provide a reasonably priced option for vehicle transport to and from the island for people who need to use this service occasionally on an ongoing basis. Say a book of 5 vehicle tickets which is good for 90 days, allowing islanders to travel to and from important appointments on the mainland at a cost similar to (no more than 20% more than) what we pay now. The tickets in this book could be non-refundable to discourage people from purchasing a book with the intention of only using a single ticket and returning the rest.

The final point I want to touch on is the ongoing issue of commercial vehicles monopolizing space on our passenger ferry while not being charged by the number of vehicle spaces they are taking up. In the proposal, the conversation about commercial vehicles has been deferred in favor of figuring out how to best exploit passenger vehicle drivers financially. I will just say I find this distasteful, unseemly, and irresponsible considering the massive amount of commercial traffic (mostly construction vehicles) the car ferry has handled in recent years and will no doubt continue to see piling onto the island. I stand with many others who are of the opinion that the traffic created by these large construction vehicles needs to be handled vis a vis some sort of arrangement

Caity Gildart

From: Betty Siegenthaler <betty.siegenthaler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 11:00 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed vehicle rate increase

Once again, the CBL's proposed solution to solving a financial deficit is to impose **exorbitant and prohibitive vehicle rates that restrict homeowners access to their property**. CBL is not the only entity experiencing financial hardship. How on earth can people who live on Peaks Island be expected to absorb these increases? **At the very least, there should be provisions for property owners to have deep discounts to travel to their homes.**

Betty Siegenthaler
7 Winding Way
Peaks Island
Sent from my iPad

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Caity Gildart

From: wilcox@maine.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate change vehicles

Dear Casco Bay Lines Finance Committee,

I own a seasonal property on peaks island. I do not rent it and have owned it for over 35 years.

In regards to the proposed rate change for a car, \$190 is too much. There is no other way to transport a car except a private carrier and keeping a car on the mainland is problematic at best. Requiring a 90 day or annual pass for pedestrians AND a Peaks V pass to qualify for a discount seems a lot to ask from peaks islanders. I do not believe having a pass should be the only way to get a discounted car fare.

I noted that four days are being offered for the deepest discount. Most of us had hoped that wacky Wednesday be extended to Tuesday as well. Please consider this, perhaps even with a small increase, for peaks islanders to run errands, go to the doctors etc.

Thank you.

Lynn Wilcox

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Caity Gildart

From: Julia Nord <julia.c.nord@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 5:12 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Car Ferry Rates for Guests or Friends

The Finance Committee's proposal to change the Car Ferry ticketing system is a step in the right direction to making CBL more fiscally sound. I have two concerns, however:

1. There needs to be consideration for people who live on Peaks Island and don't travel often to the Mainland, with or without a vehicle. These people are typically seniors or families with limited incomes who don't benefit from buying a 90-day or Annual Pass. This proposal would greatly increase the difficulty to them of living on Peaks.

2. Consideration is also needed for guests of Island families who also travel to the Island infrequently. Guests would not be as likely to visit if the cost of the car ferry is so high their only option is to travel to the Island on foot. With small children and especially with infants, this adds an incredible level of difficulty.

=====

I propose a simple amendment to the proposal: Allow pass holders who purchase a VPass the ability to purchase a LIMITED number of "Guest Passes", perhaps 5 or 10 per year. These passes would be sold at the VPass rate, and could be given/sold to any visitor or resident. In this way, neighbors can help neighbors (a proud Peaks tradition!!), and guests with a connection to an Island resident have a lower cost way to get to the Island to see their families.

Thank you for your careful thought on this important issue.

Regards,

Julia Nord

284 Seashore Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
+1-978-604-1754
julia.c.nord@gmail.com

Caity Gildart

From: Meghan Casey <megcasey207@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Rate Change
Cc: jean@cascobaylines.com
Subject: One more piece of feedback

To the Finance Committee,

I have already sent in feedback about the vehicle rate change, but hope it is OK to send another piece of feedback, with a different question. This question is more long term.

In all of the discussion about passenger rate changes last year and vehicle rate changes this year, I have wondered why Casco Bay Lines is expected to operate privately, to be self-sufficient. I understand that for the past few years--maybe longer--CBL has filled gaps in its budget with federal grants, and recently one very small state grant, but my understanding from the conversation around the vehicle rate change is that those grants are simply stop gap, are not funds that can be counted on in the future. It has also been made clear that we may not be able to count on them going forward because the current federal government is unstable. I understand and agree with that second point. But I gather from the first that CBL should not be using federal funds at all--and only does so because it operates a deficit. If I understand that incorrectly, I am sorry. I have looked at the budgets online, but do not know what the CBL charter says about funding.

Regardless, my question is: Does CBL ask for Portland City financial support for its operating budget? I do not see a line item for funds from the City in the budget. I understand that the City has contributed to infrastructure updates like the terminal. But that is not the same as operating budget. The terminal was a significant benefit FOR the City, so of course they contributed.

I see CBL as PUBLIC transportation, similar to the Metro bus system. CBL carries Portland residents to and from their homes. And the vast majority of visitors on CBL are residents of Portland or nearby towns. Does CBL lobby the City for support?

Lobbying the City will not solve the immediate budget issues. Nothing would change for this coming year or likely next, so this is more of a question going forward, not for this week's finance committee meeting. But I would urge CBL to spend money to either put together a lobbying plan themselves or hire a firm to do so, if the CBL charter allows for City funds. We all know that the City shirks the island in numerous ways, even though Peaks, the Diamonds and Cliff are important tax-paying contributors to the city. This is one important way that the City could do its duty to its islands.

Thank you. This comment is a bit late and, as I said, is not something that will be solved for this current year or this week's meeting. So please feel free to respond later on.

Meghan Casey
Peaks home: 35 Winding Way.
(207) 233-6985

Caity Gildart

From: Meghan Casey <megcasey207@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Rate Change
Cc: jean@cascobaylines.com
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Meghan Casey
Peaks home: 35 Winding Way.
(207) 233-6985

Caity Gildart

From: Kathleen McCormick <kathleensmccormick@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Rate Change; Jean Hoffman; George Higgins; Sharoan Cohen
Subject: Car Ferry Rate changes

Dear all;

I understand the need for an increase. My comments on the proposal are these:

1. These rates seem out of line with any kind of reality.
2. We have lost the seasonal half price model....which is ok....when you look at the cost of a ticket.
3. If I look at COLA over 15 years for social security it is 39%, that increase would make a more palatable number for ferry rides for islanders - \$55 for off season and \$116 for season rate.
4. I do not understand a \$100-200 right to buy the ticket with a 90 day or annual pass. It is a tax on islanders or necessary personnel on the island to buy a cheap ticket.
5. How does this work for a family? No one is going to pay \$100/person/pass to buy a ticket at a cheaper price.
6. What about a rate for seniors? Our resources are limited.
7. We are islanders all year long, life is **not seasonal** for us. Honestly, islanders should have a **flat rate all year long**. To us, the need to take a car over remains the same whether it is February or July.
8. I honestly think there needs to be a daily truck/freight run, whether that is CBL or LPA or someone else.

The board has been irresponsible in the past, allowing the deficit/expenses to rise, and not increase tickets during the past 15 years is fiscally irresponsible. Covid and other things, were not in their control but the cost of renovating and new ferries, is in their control. Whatever it is, now the islanders will be paying for this. The new ferry will not make life better on the island as it will be bringing over more people with no place to go (literally) on the island.

On the other hand, kudos, for cutting the overage by \$2 million and being in better shape if some grants disappear. Portland and the state should be contributing more (I can't see that they are and I may have missed this) through the tax on vacationers (cruise/hotel).

CBL is to serve islanders. Soon it will serve only the rich if these kinds of fares are put forth. Yes, there are vacationers and day trippers who come, and that is how we first came to the island. But the trucks that come serve islanders and those costs will be increase and be passed on to the islanders so it becomes more and more expensive. Freight will go up too, as promised. The seasons have extended, too, where April and October can be as busy as September.

CBL is the lifeline for islanders. Most are not rich. We will loose more and more of our precious resources if CBL puts this kind of a tariff on car rides.

Many thanks for your work, it is hard, but hopefully, it will improve life for islanders, the primary reason CBL exists.

Caity Gildart

From: Laura Glendening <lrglendening@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Rate Change; Jennifer Lavanture; George Higgins; Nate Cooper; Sharoan Cohen; Jean Hoffman
Subject: Proposed Car Ferry Rate Change

Dear Jennifer, Sharoan, Jean, Nate, Bud, and other CBL Directors,

As you work to develop a new rate structure and discount system for car ferry tickets to Peaks Island I ask you to do this with concern for the island resident that travels infrequently or lives with a low fixed income, thus does not purchase a 90 day or annual pass.

The present proposal benefits frequent travelers, but there are Islanders that also depend on CBL but travel only once or twice a month — and still need affordable car tickets.

In addition to your present frequency biased proposal that gives a discount to only people with a 90 day or annual pass, the proposed fee of \$100 for a PeaksVPass is too great a burden for many people and families.

There are a wide variety of reasons for needing affordable car tickets for all island residents including sustainability of island living, and health and medical concerns. Please develop a rate structure and discount system that assists all Islanders, including the infrequent traveler and the low fixed income traveler.

I had similar concerns when you raised passenger ticket prices last year, that you were not factoring in the needs of **all** Islanders — and that the cost of a ticket could prevent family members from being able to visit family on Peaks. I was told by some of you that you would work on a system that would allow Islanders to get family members out to the Island at a discounted rate, less than \$7 off peak and \$14 peak, like the old commuter book. Is this something that you continue to work on?

Is it the right time to develop a simple Island Resident discount system?

Sincerely,
Laura Glendening
Peaks Island

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Caity Gildart

From: Coralie Sherman <csherm54@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 4:30 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Vehicle rates

I'm a senior living at the Fay Garman House Apartments and I take my car to town at least twice a month. The proposed rate hike will make that very costly for me. I am also concerned about how people needing any kind of work done on the island will tell workers to come on the cheaper days making it difficult for islanders to utilize the inexpensive tickets. I hope you can find a way to accommodate people like myself living on a fixed income.

Thank you your time.

Coralie Sherman

Sent from my iPhone

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Caity Gildart

From: Janine Blatt <neenb16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:43 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jennifer Lavanture; Jean Hoffman; George Higgins; Nate Cooper; Sharoan Cohen
Subject: Seniors and rate change

Dear CBL Board members,

First, thanks for your time and dedication to serving Peaks Island. It is much appreciated!

I was able to watch the video conference this morning (4/2) and thanks for the updated information that seems to have incorporated some suggestions into the proposed vehicle rate changes. I can't seem to find it online yet.

My continued concern is around seniors, handicapped and other year round residents in need who do not use a 90 day or annual pass. I am one of those "100 people, 6%" of resident riders that fall into this category. I am a retired senior, have lived out here since 1982, and spent 20 years directing the islands non profit child care center. I am now living on a fixed income and hoping to be able to age in place, both economically and health wise. My income is such that I qualify for the property tax relief program at a state level and the P-STEP program at a local city level. I do not ride the boats with any regularity to justify any type of commuter pass. I do have a residential boarding pass for the summer months. I also find it necessary to have my car on Peaks at times, due to medical reasons.

My understanding from today's presentation is that the vehicle pass would be tied to first having a 90 day or annual pass. What about those of us who do not have one? Nor need one. Nor can afford one. What I heard from the presenter is that I should go to the island organizations that might subsidize my commuter pass so that I can then qualify for the vehicle pass. Is this correct? If so, I find it very unsettling. It seems like an unnecessary expense for a charitable organization when I don't need a commuter pass, simply a vehicle pass. And a very awkward and irresponsible ask.

I know that there is then the additional cost of \$100 to purchase the vehicle pass. So that's a total of \$316 (216 commuter/100 vehicle).

Why is the vehicle pass tied to a commuter pass? Can it be tied to the residential boarding pass? I would suggest that those of us seniors, handicapped, others with needs who fall into that "100 riders/6%" range of individual resident riders simply be offered the vehicle pass at whatever rate is determined for this vehicle pass, the current proposed rate being \$100. There would remain the option to apply for alternative help with this vehicle pass cost if it were necessary, but eliminate the extra and unnecessary burden of a 90 day/annual pass.

I hope you'll listen. Thanks. Feel free to contact me for any clarification.

Janine Blatt
122 Central Avenue
Peaks Island

Sent from my iPad

Caity Gildart

From: Shelagh Reiser <sreiser@portlandmaine.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: comment on proposed vehicle rate changes

I do not support several aspects of the proposed vehicle rate change. Bottom line: Our island community will only remain viable as a year-round community with an approach that is community-driven and takes into consideration the needs of many groups/people in different situations. This structure favors wealthier islanders- those who can already afford multiple trips and long-term passenger passes.

I do not think islanders should have to pay extra for discounted rates - this seems absurd. (I also do not think islanders should have to pay extra for priority boarding passes.)

This rate change does not seem to be proposed alongside a comprehensive assessment that is needed: what are the values, culture, and community we want to create and experience? What would make our lives and jobs better?

- Decrease vehicle use and congestion overall.
- Create strategies for better traffic flow and loading/unloading, especially island-side and in summer.
- De-incentivise commercial vehicles from using the passenger ferry.
- Create solutions to encourage visitors to leave their vehicles on the mainland - this goes hand-in-hand with increasing difficulty with mainland parking.
- Assess vehicle rates alongside passenger and freight charges and processes.
- Apply a critical eye to who is being prioritized and penalized by proposed changes, with special consideration for families, elderly folks, people with disabilities, and folks with lower incomes.

Bottom line: Our island community will only remain viable as a year-round community with an approach that is community-driven and takes into consideration the needs of many groups/people in different situations.

Sheagh Reiser

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Caity Gildart

From: Irene MacCollar <irene.maccollar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 5, 2025 5:08 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Re: rate change

Dear friends:

I wanted to briefly express my situation and opinion regarding the proposed rate changes. I'm very concerned, especially for older folks such as myself.

High home sale prices and costs and scarcity of parking on the mainland over the past couple of decades have made it increasingly difficult for native and long time residents to remain in their island homes for retirement. I'm a long time homeowner and later renter on Peaks who left for a short time but with every intention to retire to the island at some point in the next two years.

Older people may not rely on the boats to commute to work, however, we do rely on it to transport us to the mainland for medical appointments and grocery shopping. We are not in need of, nor can we afford to regularly purchase monthly or annual passes. Even if we could find parking on the mainland it is at a distance from the terminal and cost that is not possible for us on fixed incomes to afford, nor are many of us aged folks able to walk that far.

I was able to afford on discounted days to take my car over once a week. With the proposed price hikes that will be impossible. I know my situation is far from unique, and many seniors will have to consider for the first time moving off-island.

Please consider ways that you can still achieve as close to the profit margins you are proposing, yet accommodate the needs of seniors. Maybe it's a senior discounted car rate one day a week, heck , even one day every two weeks if need be, will make all the difference in helping us remain, in our final years, on the island we have loved and cherished for longer than many of you have been alive.

Thank you so much for your time.

Irene Fyfe MacCollar

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Caity Gildart

From: John S. Whitman <JWhitman@rwlb.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:13 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: CBL Proposed Rate Change

Between the two of us we have lived on Peaks Island year-round for 90 years. That's long enough to remember the pre-CBITD ferry service, which included at one point a reduction of ferry service to one boat in the morning and one boat at the end of the work day. To have the Bay Lines managed with fiscal responsibility and realistic rates is paramount. The recent change from five-ride discount book of tickets to the pass system, and the increased single-ticket price, has been a complete success and has raised much-needed revenue. The current rate change proposed for vehicle tickets is equally well-considered and achieves what everyone who desires a sustainable and affordable rate structure could want. It has our full support.

Anne and John Whitman

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Caity Gildart

From: Christian Filipos <jcf1@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Rate change comments

1. Extraordinary rate changes can not be implemented based on “fear” of changes to federal or state funding. I doubt rates would ever be reduced, in the future , based on positive funding.

2. Budget should be thoughtful, however there is not a break even goal.

Take the bridge from Portland to South Portland, for example.

It is also critical infrastructure. There is not a discussion regarding revenue to support keeping the bridge operational.

Ships do not pay exponential fees to use the drawbridge due to maintenance and improvements to the structure. And neither do bridge users, whether pedestrians, cyclists or motor vehicles.

Budget is a false argument, as it currently stands.

If more funds are required to provide critical access to a part of the City (Peaks Island) that has been connected, then it’s the job of the board to lobby for those funds.

This is not as complicated as CBL et al would like the ridership to believe.

Do your job.

Thanks,
Christian Filipos
Youell’s Oyster House
[Youells Oyster House | Seafood Restaurant | Allentown PA](#)



**Youells Oyster House | Seafood Restaurant |
Allentown PA**

Caity Gildart

From: Christine Cassidy <chrisonpeaks@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:07 PM
To: Rate Change; Jean Hoffman
Subject: Pricing

I am asking that the new rate changes as they stand be reconsidered for the following reasons:

My personal expenses will rise by 47 percent. As a retiree, this is huge.

As the suggested structure exists, a driver of a vehicle (my 25 year old son for example) would need a seasonal/year round pass in order to get a V pass. He mostly takes his vehicle back and forth because it has his dog, laundry, groceries, etc. and he goes as the driver. He pays the \$36 rate. The new rates make this prohibitive. He will now make other arrangements and not be coming with his vehicle. He grew up on the Island as did several others in his generation who can no longer afford this practice.

When ticket prices for passengers went up, my kids stopped coming for the weekend, evening dinners, etc. By the time they paid for parking as none is readily available on the Portland side and bought tickets for the two parents and kids, they were up to roughly \$60 to come visit us. Now, I go to town to see them and use the money to go out to dinner instead. Our lifestyles have changed. We are being out-priced off the island. We are losing our family traditions and way of life. This is becoming a place for only the wealthy and wealthy summer people. We have been here for four generations.

I will not repeat what others have already said. Please reconsider. We are **STRONGLY** opposed to this new rate increase as it stands. Would it not have been better to add \$5 to each car last summer?

There is no transparency to Islanders of the profit and loss at CBL. The books are not open to the public.

Cut expenses somewhere else. The cost of running a business is labor, labor, labor. CBL also has high cost of boats and fuel.

Respectfully,

Christine Cassidy
Nicholas Leong

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Caity Gildart

From: Laura Glendening <lrglendening@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:11 PM
To: Rate Change; Jean Hoffman; Sharoan Cohen; Nate Cooper; George Higgins; Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: April 2 rate change proposal

Dear Jean, Sharoan, Nate, Bud, Jennifer, and other CBL Directors,

I notice in the April 2 workshop notes that you made further reductions in the proposed cost of a discounted ticket through the PeaksVPass. I do not notice any change in the PeaksVPass proposal that would make this option a possibility for all residents of all traveling frequencies. I did see the proposal that the PIC or a social service group fund or implement a program for tickets for infrequent travelers, but this does not address your responsibility to represent all Islanders in your financial management of CBL. And as evidenced by the lack of follow through with improvements to the passenger ticket rate change last year – the CBL Board of Directors need to create policy that meets all criteria before voting to implement it.

All residents (and their immediate families) deserve the dignity of being able to purchase their own ticket home (car or passenger). If a car ticket costs \$46, make that policy. If a passenger ticket costs \$1.66, \$432 divided by 260 (5 days x 52 weeks), make that the policy.

The sustainability of island life and community is why we have CBL. This is the priority. If you are not representing the infrequent traveler, you are not representing fairly the whole of the Island community.

I urge you to work out a plan that allows all Islander to purchase discounted tickets.

Sincerely,
Laura Glendening

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Caity Gildart

From: Lucette DeMichele <demichelefamily@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 1:05 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jean Hoffman; Jennifer Lavanture; George Higgins; Nate Cooper; Sharoan Cohen; pic@portlandmaine.gov
Subject: Peaks Island Car Ferry Rate Change Questions

Dear CBL Peaks Island Board Members:

I have a few questions related the latest proposal for the car ferry rate changes:

1. I understand that if I purchase a 90 day or annual pass I can also buy a VPASS for \$100. Why is the cost for a VPASS \$100 for both 90 and annual? If I buy a 90-day and a VPASS at the same time and at the end of that period I purchase another 90 day would I need to pay another \$100 for a VPASS or is the VPASS good for the full year?
2. Do single day car tickets under the new rate structure still include 1 driver?
3. If I purchase a 90 day pass and a VPASS I understand I must be in the car that is utilizing the VPASS. If vehicle passes include a driver does that mean that TWO people, myself and one other passenger (the driver) would be covered by my 90 day / VPASS combined costs.

One comment about the supposed "success" of the passenger fare changes from 6/1/2024. I do not believe this increase was completely fair as ALL islands pay the same single day rate even though the distance the passenger boats travel to other islands far exceeds that of Peaks. This coupled with the increased vehicle costs leaves Peaks Island carrying the majority of the expense. I feel all islands should carry the burden of the possible loss of Federal Grants and not just Peaks. It is unfair to single out Peaks Island just because we have the largest ridership. Distance to each island should also be considered. I am hoping a review of these changes will be done and an increase to single day costs to other islands is seriously considered to help share the burden of the deficit.

Look forward to your response.

Thank you.

Lucette DeMichele
30 Beach Road
Peaks Island, Maine 04108

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Caity Gildart

From: vickflan@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Letter for the board

To all concerned;

After the most recent updated changes to the rate change proposal for vehicle rates when purchasing a commuter pass along with the newly proposed PeaksVPass, I'm in full support of the process going forward. While it's not perfect, I think that it is a good result for the majority of Islanders as well as a compromising result for the financial health of CBITD.

A special thank you to the finance committee for all your hard work and many hours. I know it is appreciated by many on the island.

Vicki Flanagan
Peaks Island

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Caity Gildart

From: Mira Ptacin <mira.ptacin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Casco Bay Lines proposed rates will harm islanders already financially strapped

As residents of Peaks Island, the proposed new rate increases in Casco Bay Lines ferry rates will place a significant strain on our family's daily life and budget. The cost to transport our family vehicle will surge dramatically, threatening our ability to continue living on Peaks Island, where we own a home, where our daughter attends elementary school, and where we are active members of the island community. We are not wealthy, we are struggling even to be "middle class" and live paycheck to paycheck as is.

This steep increase severely hampers our ability to attend our son's school events on the mainland, which often occur during evenings and weekends. The elevated costs make it financially challenging to participate in these important moments of his education and extracurricular activities.

Moreover, transporting our elderly family members to medical appointments has become a logistical and financial burden. Relying on public transportation is not feasible given their mobility issues, and the increased ferry rates make regular trips to healthcare providers in Portland significantly more expensive.

The elimination of commuter books further exacerbates our situation. While discounted monthly and annual passes are available, they do not align with our family's travel patterns, leading to higher overall expenses.

We urge Casco Bay Lines to reconsider these rate increases and explore solutions that balance operational costs with the needs of island residents. Affordable and accessible transportation is vital for our community's well-being and connectivity to essential services on the mainland.

Best,
Mira Ptacin and family

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To: CBL Board

April 7, 2025

The Casco Bay ferries provide an indispensable service to island residents and every islander owes the CBL Board of Directors an enormous debt of gratitude for the work they do on our behalf. From time to time that work includes the unpopular job of raising rates. No one is happy about this necessary task, especially the CBL Board. Nevertheless, rates must go up for the first time in 15 years in order for CBL to meet its fiscal responsibility.

The CBL Board's handling of increases for passenger tickets has gone smoothly and its solutions for easing the transition for island residents has been very effective and fair. A similar goal for auto and light truck rates is next. The proposal for consideration meets critical goals for CBL and its customers.

- It addresses the requirement for reducing the deficit.
- It increases rates to levels more closely aligned with the inflation that has occurred over the past 15 years when CBL subsidized services.
- It provides relief and discounts for island residents who use the ferry most and passes more of the increase on to infrequent customers who should have been at these levels for years.
- It provides a solution to a problem at a time when municipal, state and federal grants may not be an option.

We support and thank the CBL Board for its open consideration of multiple opinions, its innovative problem solving and its diplomacy in the thankless task of handling a difficult issue. We also encourage islanders to continue to find ways to help subsidize tickets for those in need.

Bill & Patty Zimmerman

Peaks Island, Maine

Caity Gildart

From: Michele Winchester <mandewinchester@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:02 PM
To: Rate Change; Erik Winchester
Subject: Car Ferry Rate Changes

CBL Finance Committee,

We are writing to express our support for the work the CBL Finance Committee has done and continues to do with regard to the Car Ferry Rate Changes.

We believe the latest plan presented on Wednesday 4/2 is a solid plan with many benefits:

The Discount Pass Rate offers more “cheap” travel days, Sunday through Wednesday vs only Wednesday. This will reduce congestion on “cheap Wednesdays” year round.

The Discount Pass Rate is not tied to residency, addressing concerns regarding service providers who travel frequently to the island.

The Discount Pass Rate supports Friends and Family travel, simply requiring the 90 Day or Annual Pass holder be in the vehicle which is a reasonable ask.

Vehicle tickets purchased before 4/18 will be honored for 60 days allowing a grace period and smooth adjustment to the change.

While there are a couple scenarios that are not addressed by the proposed changes there are other options.

Summer residents could purchase a 90 day pass and a Vehicle pass. If one travels off island 4 times a month the 90 day (and annual) passes are cost effective. Only one family member needs to purchase the 90 day pass to be eligible for the vehicle pass. This is still a cheaper and more convenient option than parking in Portland during the summer.

For those that don't travel off island enough to justify a 90 day or annual pass, or for those who purchase a pass and the vehicle pass intending to travel Sunday through Wednesday, if there is a need to travel Thursday, Friday or Saturday, there are island resources that could assist such as PIC and Loretta Voyer. I suggest these groups and other island organizations could brainstorm additional ticket support options.

Besides all of the reasons noted above, the most compelling reason that we offer support is because the CBL Finance Committee has actively solicited, listened to and responded to islander input. This demonstrates the sincere goal to serve the community while accomplishing the difficult task to address CBL's fiscal responsibility.

We recommend the proposed plan proceed forward.

Thank you,
Michele and Erik Winchester

Caity Gildart

From: rory thesellersplace.com <rory@thesellersplace.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:51 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Why the difference?

Hi,

I recently received the Rate Change Proposal for the car ferry. It says to write you with comments.

One thing in the document made me curious.

The proposed rates during peak season show a discounted fare that is different for Thurs-Sat compared to Sun-Wed. But the undiscounted fares are the same all week.

But during off peak, it's the reverse: the undiscounted fare is different for Thurs-Sat compared to Sun-Wed. But the discounted fares are the same all week.

What is the reason the rate structures swap like this between peak and off-peak seasons?

Thank you,

Rory Sellers
Peaks Island

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Caity Gildart

From: Marianne Taylor <mtaylor4mail@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Vehicle rate change

Hello. I am a seasonal resident of Peaks Island. I own a seasonal cottage and am on the island from May to October. I was shocked, last summer to see the passenger rates double. I have lived in Boston most of my life and considered the fall out if the trains and bus fares simply doubled overnight. In essence—the ferry is a public service as Peaks is part of Portland. The residential tax rates in Portland are already exceedingly high, but I have always reasoned that the ferry is like public transportation. I have been coming to Peaks for 30 years and remember well the old terminal. As I could see, there were few issues with the old terminal. In fact it seemed to have even more seating than the new renovated terminal. The renovated space is just that—lots of air and un usable space. It seems to me that there are the same number of registers selling tickets as there always were. I learned also that the entire second floor above the renovated space is the CBL offices. This seems hard to grasp as the renovation obviously cost CBL millions. But for what actual improvements to the customer base? Just like the “new” ferry which will only fit 2-3 more cars? All this begs the question: what could the goals of CBL actually be when it is obvious that customer service is not a top priority?

Summer after summer I try to work with the system. I take my car on and off the island as infrequently as possible. But like many of us—we occasionally need our cars off island. The lack of any kind of car reservation system has always baffled me. When I have inquired (as I often do when relegated to wait at the “whale wall” for hours on end) I have been given various excuses: it wouldn’t be fair to people who could not make a reservation; the computer system is not set up for reservations; it would be impossible to manage. Yet, I have taken the ferry to Vinalhaven as well as the Cross Sound Ferry as well as the ferries to Marthas Vineyard and Nantucket. How is it that all these jurisdictions manage to run a functional car reservation system and CBL can not. I have spent entire days waiting to get my car on at either side of the ferry. It seems to me terribly inconsiderate for CBL to expect people to simply arrive at the terminal and hope for the best—the best often being having to wait for three or 4 hours in the baking sun with kids, pets, and elderly passengers. All this for a 18 minute ferry ride. I have been told—come at this time and not at that time only to arrive in a sea of total confusion—a free for all of unmanaged chaos. Often cars arrive and have no idea where to even line up—they cut in front of other cars and mayhem ensues. In short—the system is unmanned, unfair, and a total mess. is this really the best CBL can do?

And now we are told that CBL is in debt and the car fares need to double—you’re taking away the cheap car ferry on Wednesdays—and you’re STILL refusing to implement a common sense reservation system. All this while we see the massive renovation which seemed to do nothing but colonize waterfront “air” space, thus greatly increasing CBL’s square footage and office space—yet do noting to improve customer experience and satisfaction. I am so very disappointed to learn that the only way CBL can remain financially viable is to double fares, both passenger and auto. It seems to me that some unsustainable business decisions were made around unnecessary terminal and ferry —and now CBL wants their passengers to bail them out.

I, like many, will simply have no choice but to pay for a parking space in town as the ferry will not only be prohibitively expensive, not to mention as unreliable and dysfunctional as it always has been.

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Caity Gildart

From: Mira Ptacin <mira.ptacin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 4:31 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: woud like to retract my statement

Hello,

I just saw a copy of the current proposal and realize I was misinformed by the information that was given to me. I'd like to retract my comments!

Thank you so much for your understanding!

Best,
Mira

--

Mira Maria Ptacin



Author & Educator

www.miraMptacin.com

author of ***Poor Your Soul***

and ***The In-Betweens: The Spiritualists, Mediums, and Legends of Camp Etna***

Peace.

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Caity Gildart

From: Susan Nightingale <nightsb20@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:39 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Vehicle fare increase

Good afternoon,

I am writing to ask a few questions prior to your next meeting about the rate change. While I completely understand the need for an increase in vehicle fare, I share many of the concerns already voiced by full and part time islanders.

My husband and I spend about 6 months at our cottage on Peaks every year, typically May through October. Due to his mobility issues and frequent appointments in town, we have begun to drive back and forth much more frequently than we use to. Last year, we often left Portland on Wednesday nights and returned on Sunday nights, making it more affordable and less busy.

He always purchased a pass but as the car driver, I didn't need a ticket so only purchased a passenger ticket on the rare occasions we traveled without a car. If I understand it correctly, he will be able to purchase the reduced fare vehicle ticket with his pass as long as he's in the car. The issue here is that with the current pass structure, he will pay the \$100 twice because he will need to buy a 90 day pass twice in the 6th month period. I'm sure there must be others in this situation. Would you consider 1) a six month pass so people pay the \$100 once per season or 2) attach a lower fee to the 90 day pass like \$50 so it equals out?

I also wonder how this affects households with multiple drivers who may not be traveling together but each may need to drive their family vehicle from time to time. This plan would require those families to pay an additional \$100 for each pass holder so they have the ability to buy a reduced fare as needed. This could amount to a lot of additional cost for those families.

Lastly, I am very concerned about the additional expense that will be added for any service/construction work that property owners will have to bear. It will greatly increase the cost of any project or necessary maintenance as these ferry rates are added to our price for any job. I would expect it will also increase the prices at restaurants, shops and the store because that additional cost will need to be passed on to customers. It could end up being a lot.

We appreciate your efforts and willingness to take all this public input as you work towards a solution that can work for everyone involved.

Thank you,
Susan Nightingale

Sent from my iPad

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Caity Gildart

From: Susan Hanley <susan.hanley123@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:15 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Support for vehicle fare proposal

Dear CBL Board Members,

I am writing to support the most recent vehicle fare proposal that reduces the vehicle rate to \$46 Sunday-Wednesday during the peak season, and \$46 every day during the off peak season, for people who purchase a \$100 discount pass.

I believe this proposal provides a very affordable rate for people who want to bring their cars over to the island. Creating the \$100 discount pass is a clever way to make affordable car ferry tickets available for frequent ferry riders. I liken it to many subscription services that people sign up for, like paying \$139/year for an Amazon Prime membership, which provides the benefit of free shipping on some Amazon items.

In this case, for a \$100/year fee, people can pay a very fair rate of \$46 to bring their car to Peaks Island. This is actually less than the price of a car ferry ticket adjusted for inflation since 2010 when rates were last raised (\$52).

An added benefit of the proposal is that discount pass holders can purchase a reduced car ferry ticket for any car they are riding in - not just the car they own. So they can extend the benefit to family and friends just by riding over on the ferry with them. This is another great idea!

I hope that you will vote in favor of this vehicle fare proposal and support an initiative that increases CBL revenues in a fair way.

Thanks,
Susan

Susan Hanley
President, Board of Directors
Fifth Maine Museum
fifthmainemuseum.org
207-332-2443



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Caity Gildart

From: M J Burnette <mj.burnette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 9:12 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate Changes

As a retired senior, I downsized to one car which I keep on Peaks Island. I always go off Island with this car and not as a passenger only. If I understand your proposals, in order to get discounted auto rates, I would have to also purchase a passenger pass. Is there no option of auto passes only ?

Secondly, the non islander auto charges of \$ 120 to \$ 190. are ridiculous for a 15 minute boat ride. It's hard enough getting any service people to come to Peaks and this won't help. This will also discourage family and friends to visit.

Lastly, why are non-commercial vehicles seeing such high increases as compared to only 23 % for commercial vehicles. When a commercial vehicle is taking up to four or six car spaces, why are they not being charged accordingly ?

M J Burnette
39 Central Avenue
Peaks Island, Maine

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Caity Gildart

From: Annie O'Brien <asob45@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 10:11 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Please slow the process down

To the administrators of Casco Bay Lines:

I am a 45-year full time resident of Peaks Island. I am concerned about the proposed rate changes and the impact they will have on island residents, as well as on friends and family who visit us. There has been a lot of information flying around, but not enough clarity or time to process the implications of the changes. Personally, I have not had enough time to explore how the rate changes will affect our family.

I request that a decision not be rushed, and that you take the time to get islanders the information they need in order to fully understand and express their opinions about the proposed rate changes.

Thank you,
Anne Sibley O'Brien

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Caity Gildart

From: Info
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:19 AM
To: Caity Gildart
Subject: Fw: Rate Changes

From: ann kearsley design <ak@annkearsley.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:40 PM
To: Info <info@cascobaylines.com>
Cc: Ann Kearsley Design <ak@annkearsley.com>
Subject: Rate Changes

April 8

Dear CBL,

I'm writing to express my dismay over the proposed extreme increase in vehicle rates. The single jump increase is *so* extreme - raising the cost of living on the island by literally thousands of dollars a year.

A brief investigation of other ferry line fares along the Eastern seaboard suggests that the Peaks Island ferry - an 18-minute ride - would be one of the most expensive ferries by a long shot. A round-trip ticket for a 1-hour (each way) ferry to Nantucket is \$220. That's \$1.83 per minute as opposed to the Peaks Island ride which will cost \$5.28 per minute. The Block Island ferry is \$75.20 round trip for vehicles for a 55-minute ride (each way) which works out to \$1.73 per minute.

CBL has not provided a clear explanation of how its management has landed in these financial straits or why its fares are not comparable to those of other ferry lines in the Northeast. CBL has also not provided a convincing explanation for why Peaks Island residents are expected to bear the burden of digging you out of your financial hole. This decision seems punitive and deeply unfair.

Ann Kearsley
500 Seashore Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
207.318.1113

Caity Gildart

From: Barring Coughlin <barringcoughlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:41 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Support for Rate Change Proposal

To: Casco Bay Lines Board

I am writing in strong support of the recommendations presented by the Finance Committee on vehicle charges.

Past Boards were able in the past to rely on government largess to avoid fare increases. The odds are high that government grants to cover operating expenses will be reduced or eliminated.

The proposed fare increases protect those users most reliant on frequent use of vehicular services vs. occasional or one-time users, which is fair.

The discussions around support for the financially neediest of users through the benevolence of island organizations such as PIC, Loretta Voyer Fund, etc. provide a common-sense approach to supporting those most in need.

A one-year trial period of the new fare structure will allow the Board and the Community to determine which parts of the proposal work well, and which parts do not and should be changed.

We can no longer pretend that we are immune to the increasing costs of island living, and that the government will always take care of us. I commend the Board for recognizing this, and I commend the Finance Committee for all the hard work put into addressing these problems, and for coming up with a workable proposal.

Caity Gildart

From: John W. Gulliver <jwgulliver@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:22 AM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Gulliver Jean K.
Subject: Proposed New Fares

To the Finance Committee,

We are writing in support of the overall goals of the Finance Committee to secure the long-term future of Casco Bay Lines and its year-round service to Peaks and the other islands in Casco Bay, while maintaining affordable and accessible service.

We write as longtime summer residents of Peaks. In fact, John's great grandfather built the family cottage on Peaks in 1898. Family members have been customers of CBL and its predecessors ever since.

It is prudent to increase revenues and become more disciplined in operating expenses to balance the budget and become less dependent on federal subsidies that are at great risk of either elimination altogether or substantial reduction. While this is true for each of the islands served by CBL, our personal knowledge and experience are with Peaks.

Rate increases on various classes of service, especially vehicle service to Peaks Island, are long overdue in light of overall inflation, higher operating expenses, and the large amount of vehicle travel to Peaks with bigger and heavier vehicles that take a greater toll on ferry equipment. No one likes a fare increase, but worse than that would be a major impairment of this essential service.

The revised proposal from the Finance Committee reflects a sincere commitment to balance affordability and accessibility for all residents, including those who regularly must move their vehicles on an off the island, with the need to achieve financial sustainability. The Finance Committee has already shown a willingness to modify its proposals based on feedback and has expressly stated that the final decision will be a pilot program for 2025, subject to further modification as experience dictates. This is a sound approach that we support.

Jean and John Gulliver

John W. Gulliver
jwgulliver@gmail.com
+1.207.415.3400

Caity Gildart

From: Chris Hoppin <choppin@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2025 1:32 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jean Hoffman
Subject: Proposed Vehicle Rates

These are long overdue and this proposal looks good.
Let's adopt it ASAP so we can benefit from Summer crowds.

C.J. Hoppin 207 232 2908
196 Seashore Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108

Caity Gildart

From: Cynde Putney <cyndep325@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 11:34 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Comments on 4/9 proposed vehicle rates

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work on this issue. The latest proposal which essentially offers year-round residents a \$10 increase in vehicle rates, after 10 years of no increases seems quite manageable. I would note that in many ways the new discounted structure is an improvement for year-round residents who purchase an annual pass during the majority of Peak Season (after any pre-purchased tickets expired in June) as the proposed highest rate is the same as it has been in times past, and the Sun-Thur rate is now less than it was previously. The additional fee paid by 90 day pass holders has been cut in half from original proposal.

Are vehicle tickets still going to be good for 60 days under the proposed plan?

Thank you,
Cynde Putney

Sent from my iPhone

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Caity Gildart

From: EMILY MAGAL <emagal@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed Rate Change

I am writing to applaud the most recent proposed car ferry pricing rate change.

In my opinion it will increase CBL income, provide islanders/frequent users a reasonable solution to the huge price jump and decrease pressure on Wednesdays.

Thank you for listening and working so hard to find a solution.

Emily Magal
130 Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
240-460-8770 (mobile)
207-766-2509 (home)

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Caity Gildart

From: Eric Conrad <econrad@backshore.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 10:35 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed vehicle rate changes

I am writing in support of the proposed Casco Bay Lines vehicle rate changes.

I've reviewed the proposed changes during various phases of development. It's clear that a lot of thought has been given to this process, and that community input has been actively solicited and taken into account.

These changes address the needs of year-round islanders and summer people who stay here for long periods of time. Both can buy annual or quarterly passes that offer discount rates for ferry tickets for both people and vehicles. The elderly receive 50% discounts on those passes, and "safety valves" such as the Loretta Voyer fund exist for those in need.

The current vehicle system is in dire need of correction. "Wacky Wednesday" leads to massive vehicle lines. A summer rate weekend car ferry ticket currently costs less than a two-hour golf cart rental. I've seen plenty of one-time visitors decide to take their car over for a few hours to drive around Peaks as opposed to paying more to rent a golf cart. This burdens the car ferry, Casco Bay Lines staff, year rounders, summer people, and visitors who rent cottages for a few days or longer.

I am confident that the proposed rate changes will improve the lives of Peaks Islanders.

Thank you,
...Eric

--

Eric Conrad, GIAC GSE, CISSP
CTO
Backshore Communications
Peaks Island, ME 04108
(207) 200-5867
econrad@backshore.net

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Caity Gildart

From: Info
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 7:20 AM
To: Nick Mavodones; Caity Gildart; Laurie Bowie
Subject: Fw: Proposed vehicle change rates for Peaks Island

FYI comments from Chuck Radis

From: cradis@maine.rr.com <cradis@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:18 PM
To: Info <info@cascobaylines.com>
Subject: Proposed vehicle change rates for Peaks Island

As a former board member, I am well aware that we continue to run a large budget deficit and that future federal support to plug this deficit can no longer be relied on.

I support some increase in the passenger vehicle rates to Peaks Island, however, I don't feel that \$280 during peak season is reasonable. Note that a round-trip plan fare from Philadelphia to Portland is \$265! Also, the 23% increase in the commercial vehicle rate is actually a TARIFF on Peaks Island residents. Anything which comes over, whether it's firewood, Pest-control services, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, is ultimately passed on to Peaks Islanders.

More critically, both the previous increased passenger fares and the latest vehicle fare increases target only Peaks Island. There has been virtually nothing that affects the cost of travelling to the outer islands. I strongly support a closer look at reducing service to the outer islands (similar to previous levels years ago).

For instance, Great Diamond Island has two ferry stops for 109 year-round residents. There are seven stops at each of these landings each day. Why are we still going to two separate stops when we have a massive budget deficit? There are significant savings possible with consolidating to one ferry stop and eliminating service times when very few passengers use the service.

Similar consolidation can and should occur for the other year-round communities. These are difficult financial times and WE NEED TO CUT COSTS as well as raise more revenue.

Please don't try and close the budget on the backs of Peaks Island residents.

Sincerely,
Chuck Radis

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Caity Gildart

From: Info
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 8:56 AM
To: Caity Gildart; Nick Mavodones
Subject: FW: redoing rates

From: Elizabeth Ramage-Healey <remagehealey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 9:22 AM
To: Info <info@cascobaylines.com>
Subject: redoing rates

Hi. I hope this is the right email to comment about how thoughtfully and patiently the CBL board has been working on the tough job of raising rates, especially for vehicles. A task that is never going to please everyone but the time and many meetings devoted to this task reflect the respect for the ferry "clients" , especially year round island residents who depend on the ferry.

Keep up the fine work,
Betsey Ramage-Healey
Peaks Island

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Caity Gildart

From: wilcox@maine.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: CBL Board of Directors regarding Car Ferry Rate change

Dear CBL Board of Directors,

I own a seasonal property on peaks island. I do not rent it and have owned it for over 40 years.

In regards to the proposed rate change for a car, \$190 seems like a lot. There is no other way to transport a car except by private carrier and keeping a car on the mainland is problematic at best.

I was unable to attend the April 17 meeting in person or virtually. At the April 9 meeting statements were made that the new rate proposal would be a pilot and reevaluated. At that time, I expressed concern that rates, once established, rarely go down. My hope is that the rate reflect the least amount necessary for this pilot period.

I noted that four days are being offered for the deepest discount. I do not believe having a pass should required to get a discounted car fare on these days.

Thank you

Lynn Wilcox

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Caity Gildart

From: Meghan Casey <megcasey207@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Rate Change

To Casco Bay Lines,

I was unable to attend the meeting because of work. I write in opposition to the \$190 single ticket price for vehicles. According to reports about the meeting, the two reasons given for the huge increase in single ticket prices are: 1. To bring CBL into the black and 2. To reduce vehicle congestion. The second of these raises troublesome, perhaps ethical, questions.

I have written in the past about my concern that the \$190 single ticket price will make it far more expensive for island residents to get work done by contractors from the mainland. This will in turn make it harder for people of modest or lower income to live on Peaks, one more step toward making Peaks a summer-only, wealthy community.

This email focuses on the second reason given: to reduce congestion. Price manipulation is not a way to solve traffic congestion, and I am not sure it is ethical to use it as such. Especially for for a public property like Peaks. That is a heavy thing to say, and I know that CBL in general, and the Finance Committee in particular, are an ethical group--but **CBL's rates should be what they need to be to keep CBL running with a balanced budget. Nothing more.** Congestion should be solved in other ways. And what one person sees as congestion, another sees as family visiting, or customers for their store. The discussion of congestion is political, not financial, and the conversation should be broad, inclusive, and with the CITY. CBL serves the islands as transportation. They are not the political arm that leads the island. That is the City Council or, in some ways, the PIC. If in this particular circumstance CBL set rates for single tickets higher than need be in order to reduce congestion, to stave off visitors and customers to the island I do not think a public service like CBL is supposed to work that way.

We have a significant problem with vehicle congestion on Peaks. There needs to be a solution. The problem is twofold. One, there is no parking in Portland. Where is the PIC or other group lobbying City Hall non-stop for parking? Where is the City Council member who represents the islands? The islands (except Long and Chebeague) are taxpayers to the city. The islands are a significant benefit to the city, providing open space and recreation for thousands of Portlanders every year. Where is the City Council?

Second--where is the Portland Police? The congestion on Welch St. and Island Ave on summer weekends, and at the ferry lines on Peaks and at CBL in Portland are a significant risk to public safety. If any other neighborhood in Portland faced such a consistent and dangerous risk, the police would be there. Where are they? Can the PIC or City Council or even our state rep help us out here? We need an extra police officer (not a trainee) on Peaks every single Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from mid-June to mid-Sept, and perhaps other days. I am not sure if the CBL access road in Portland is a city road or private. If city, we need an officer there on busy days. If private, CBL needs to hire a traffic monitoring person. Perhaps Peaks also needs more/better sidewalks. And there are likely other steps needed.

Peaks and the other islands are a part of the city of Portland. They should be accessible to islanders and visitors alike. It is the City's responsibility to make the roads of Peaks safe, just as it is their responsibility in the rest of the city. Yes, the islands are different in that we have a private company that brings people to and fro (that should also not be the case--the Metro is not private--but that is another issue). But it does not seem ethical to me to control the number of people able to come to the islands through price manipulation. That simply makes Peaks less accessible to visitors of limited means, and more comfortable for the wealthy who can afford to visit or live there.

We need a broad, inclusive discussion about the responsibility of the City of Portland to our islands. But Casco Bay Lines is a private company that should not be used to achieve results that are the responsibility of public entities.

Sincerely,

Meghan Casey
Summer: 35 Winding Way, Peaks, Island

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Caity Gildart

From: Barbara Carter <barbcarter19@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 6:30 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Car fare increase

Dear Board of Directors,

I'm a year-round senior resident on Peaks Island. I understand the need to raise fares, and I believe the finance committee has done a lot of work to come up with this proposal that they will present to you today.

For me personally, the proposal will work. However, I fear that there are many Islanders who will find this very difficult. There is no path to accessing the discounted rates other than by purchasing a 90 day or an annual pass which benefits only frequent travelers. I appreciate that they have made discounted rates available for people with handicap plates and for those traveling with Loretta Voyer funds.

The \$190. fare for those who do not fit into any of the above categories is just too much... A more than 200% increase. This seems to target infrequent visitors to the island, and favors those who are well to do. It is another contribution to what many Islanders fear will make Peaks Island an exclusive spot for the elite.

This is a pilot! It is not an emergency at this time to increase revenue. Why not start with something more reasonable for those single fare tickets. It can be raised as needed, but why not start with something less dramatic!

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Carter

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Caity Gildart

From: Owen Sanderson <o.sanderson@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 27, 2025 8:19 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Thank You for Your Thoughtful Consideration: New \$46 Discounted Rate

To the Members of the Casco Bay Lines Rate Change Committee –

I write to thank you for taking into account the needs of year-round islanders who often drive on/off the island in their personal vehicles. I understand it has been a challenging process to make everyone happy, but the most recent proposal (e.g., \$46 discounted ticket for islanders with an annual pass) seems reasonable and considered.

Again, thank you for making a sincere effort to ensure financial stability at Casco Bay Lines while also considering the needs of year-round islanders who rely on reasonably priced car ferry tickets.

Sincerely,
Owen Sanderson
25 Alderbrook Road
Peaks Island, ME 04108

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4977 KIWAN DR.
SO OGDEN, UTAH
84403

APRIL 28, 2025

AHN: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The amount of the proposed rate increase, nearly doubled, is unreasonable to year round and summer residents of Peaks Island. People need dependable boat service to get to their homes at a price that is affordable.

My family has owned property on Peaks Island since 1903, and lived on Peaks as year round residents and now summer residents.

To give preference to commercial vehicles over the needs of island people is unreasonable, and a great hardship.

We hope a reasonable agreement can be reached.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this great concern.

Very truly yours,

Mrs Esther Town Mitchell
15 Torrington
Peaks Island ME 04108

Caity Gildart

From: JoAnn Byrne <stephen.byrne@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate Fares

Two points to bring up

1. I know parking in Portland is difficult but had anyone considered what the impact the new rate will have on Parking on Peaks. Which can be difficult during Peaks season? It's already difficult.

2. To defray the vehicle rate increase. I propose not charging for passengers inside the vehicle. They are not taking up more space on the ferry. Making it just a vehicle charge rather than an additional passenger charge.

Sent from my iPhone

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Caity Gildart

From: craigmit2@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Extreme Displeasure

The proposed change in Casco Bay Ferry rates is shocking and extremely disappointing. My family has owned property on Peaks Island for several decades and I cannot believe that you are having to double the rates in one year. This is extreme and I cannot believe the lack of federal funding has that much to do with it. I can understand that, as a commercial enterprise, you need to make a profit and you should. But your proposed rates seem likely to drive longtime residents and vacationers off the island. Perhaps this is your intent.

My family goes back and forth frequently in the summer months to buy groceries and hardware items in Portland. We also come from multiple states and pay quite a bit just to land in or drive to Portland. The property taxes are high and keep escalating to support the liberal government in Portland.

Thank you for your time in reading this feedback. Please consider raising your rates by a much less amount than proposed.

Craig Mitchell
312 Cub Court
Greenville, SC 29609

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Caity Gildart

From: pmacisaac@peaksisland.us
Sent: Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:25 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jean Hoffman
Subject: Revised Casco Bay Lines Rates

Dear Casco Bay Lines Board of Directors,

I want to express my support for all the evaluation and hard work the board of directors has given to propose appropriate 2025 rates for Casco Bay Lines.

Change, particularly increases in costs, are hard to deal with for most of us but thoughtful consideration has been given to islanders both seasonal and year-round. As we all know, costs have gone up on almost everything. My priority is **safety and a well-run ferry system** for both passengers and crew. If we expect to have competent management and capable crew members there is a price, we will have to pay to attract these people in addition to the cost of maintaining the waiting room and ferries.

We are very fortunate to have such a capable board of directors, who are volunteers and are willing to put in time to research and develop workable solutions to a very complex problem. I would also like to thank the community members that have contributed their insights.

Sincere regards,

Phyllis MacIsaac
Peaks Island Resident Seasonal and Year-Round 67 years

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Caity Gildart

From: jmitchmpu <jmitchmpu@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: disgust over ferry rate increase to Peaks Island

To whom it concerns:

My family and those before me in our nuclear family have been visiting for about the last century.

The proposed rate increase will preclude us from visiting Peaks Island in the future. We will also encourage others to boycott the Casco Bay Lines to any island.

We feel this increase is another attempt to further gentrify the Island and push the middle class people off the island due to affordability..

Please reconsider the proposed rate increase.
Thank you for your time,

Jeffrey Mitchell

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

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