Midcoast Council of Governments, ME – RCAP / DOT TCP

Project Location: Maine

Volunteers Needed:

1. Traffic Engineer - *Four years of professional experience, Professional Engineering license (Maine preferred but not required)*

2. Civil Engineer - *Four years of professional experience, Professional Engineering license (Maine preferred but not required)*

Full descriptions and role/responsibilities are linked and can be found on our website. Outside of those listed above, additional general project team members are welcome.

Project Background: Midcoast Maine is a diverse set of towns, villages, and rural areas where transportation is complicated by many peninsulas, rural connectors, vulnerable coastal islands, and extensive tourism. Additionally, the region is experiencing unprecedented population growth: 15 towns grew by over 10% since 2010. As traffic congestion and climate events worsen, the Midcoast Council of Governments is seeking to develop a base analysis to study movement patterns, growth, and an inventory of transportation infrastructure condition and capacity. The Council proposes creating a multimodal connectivity plan and transit feasibility study for the region. Following this, the Council seeks to develop a long-range regional investment and implementation strategy, leveraging federal funding. Part of this work will be an initial analysis of congested intersections in the area.

Description of the Community: The Midcoast of Maine represents a collection of small towns along Maine's eastern seaboard. Due to the rural nature of the region, there has been a lack of funding and attention at the State and Federal level for these systemic issues. Much of the Midcoast has been without technical assistance since 2017, and a collection of local governments in the area are working to rebuild capacity. There is a shortage of housing compared to demand, more people moving to Maine, displacement of locals due to diminishing affordability, an aging population, and a shortage of workers to sustain local industry. The region is experiencing more frequent, severe storms, stressing infrastructure vulnerable to flood and storm surges. While transportation modes are diverse (ferry, road, air, and rail), the region experiences transportation insecurity due to the lack of connecting options, limited routes, and inaccessibility of the region to anyone without access to a personal vehicle.

Project Scope of Work: CECorps' overall role in this project has been to serve in an advisory capacity to support a baseline assessment for existing transportation, as well as planning and data analysis to inform future planning. CECorps also assisted in the development of an RFP and the hiring of a consultant for the regional transit feasibility study. This work has been accomplished and the consultant will be brought on board in January of 2026.

Community Engineering Corps

After the baseline assessment, CECorps will work with the stakeholders to identify the five intersections (pinch points) that need a more detailed study. Many of the most congested intersections are on the state highway system which is administered by Maine DOT. There may be additional congested intersections on County or local roadways. Once intersections are identified, the scope of the volunteers will be to conduct a study of each.

If the congested intersections are on the state highway system, the study will include.

- Identification of transit (bus, pedestrian, bicycle) related capacity, safety, and other traffic issues specific to each intersection.
- Identification of possible intersection related enhancements that will facilitate the flow of bus, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic through each of the intersections.
- Prepare a short narrative report describing the process, results, and lists the recommendation for these enhancements with some conceptual sketches of the proposed enhancements with budget level cost estimates.

If the congested intersections are on county or local roads, the study will include.

- Identification of transit capacity, safety, and other traffic issues specific to each intersection.
- Identification of possible intersection related enhancements that will reduce congestion at each of the intersections.
- Identification of key issues that could affect the proposed enhancements (R/W, environmental,
- Prepare a short narrative report describing the process, results, and lists the recommendation for these enhancements with some conceptual sketches of the proposed enhancements with budget level cost estimates.

A key objective of the study is to evaluate the capacity of these areas to safely and efficiently move transit vehicles, helping to inform future regional transit routing. The Council will use the reports to prioritize locations to seek opportunities and grants to address the concerns.

Timeline: CECorps scope and deliverables must be completed by September 2026, starting in early 2026. During the process, the CECorps may receive requests for assistance with grant applications that will involve funding for the project(s). **Contact:** If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact us at CECinfo@ewb-usa.org.

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***Short description for email**: We are seeking traffic and civil engineers to support the Midcoast of Maine Council of Governments (COG). Midcoast COG represents a collection of small towns along Maine's eastern seaboard. Due to the rural nature of the region, there has been a lack of funding and attention at the State and Federal level for transportation challenges. CECorps is supporting Midcoast COG in partnership with RCAP through DOT's Thriving Community Program to assess and provide recommendations for five "pinch point" intersections. The intersections are currently being identified by the community, but scope will likely include preparing recommendations for enhancements with some conceptual sketches and high-level budget cost estimates. Project to be completed by September 2026 - please let us know if this would be an issue as there may be some flexibility with our partners. Funds are available for travel.*