



January 19, 2022

Commissioner Sicard  
York County Commissioners  
45 Kennebunk Road  
Alfred, ME 04002

York County ARPA Consideration – Public Transit

Commissioner Sicard,

As the new Executive Director of Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB Transit), I am happy to see public transit considered among the pool of projects in the ARPA award process. YCCAC and SMPDC have applied for approximately \$882,000 to support operating enhancements, with a focus on more trips between Springvale and the Saco Transportation Center. I fully support this effort, as public transit investment is critical for reducing social inequalities and improving economic opportunities.

That said, I strongly encourage the Commissioners to grant BSOOB Transit an opportunity to either partner with the existing project, or an opportunity to be considered among the larger project pool. Given the agenda for today's County Commissioner meeting, I believe this request is reasonable.

BSOOB Transit operates service in two of the three largest municipalities in York County. The BSOOB Transit network has a population of over 70,000 residents within ¾ mile of a transit stop. The attributes of the Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach communities each contain significant propensity for public transit success, yet supportive investment for BSOOB Transit is being overlooked.

The ARPA process is a once in a generation opportunity to propel community growth and enhance social outcomes. It is important that each award deliver the greatest possible result. Allowing BSOOB Transit an opportunity to join the service investment conversation will guarantee that transit providers are best aligned to maximize resources.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the first few months at a new organization can inhibit extensive outreach to a community as broad as ours. I look forward to further conversations.

Regards,

Chad Heid, Executive Director  
BSOOB Transit