



## Moving COAST Into the Future

Join the Conversation!

**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

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**Dover, NH** – The Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation ([COAST](#)) is excited to announce that over the next 22 months it will be taking a comprehensive look at its entire public transit system to potentially discover new opportunities to better serve the region as it is today and into the foreseeable future.

Rad Nichols, COAST Executive Director, related, “There has been tremendous change across COAST’s service area in the past 10+ years. COAST has also undergone incredible change, effectively doubling in size since 2009.” Nichols continued, “COAST is at a point in its life cycle when a comprehensive, deep dive of how we provide services, and a discussion of whether those current services best meet the needs of the region, should be undertaken.”

Key to the process, stakeholders( including riders, elected officials, the business community and community service organizations), are all being strongly encouraged to ‘join the conversation’ and take an active role in helping COAST determine how to best meet the changing needs of their current and future customers.

COAST will be offering multiple opportunities for public conversation and input through public forums, meetings, and hearings, as well as through in-person and online surveys. The first round of public forums are being scheduled through the month of October and will be held across COAST’s service area.

The work of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) will be a repetitive process occurring over the course of the next 22 months, including extensive data collection, soliciting of public input, analyzing data patterns, forming new concepts for improved service, analyzing those concepts, and repeating this cycle until COAST identifies an improved network. The organization intends to launch any revised or new services resulting from the COA by July 2020.

A landing page for the Project will soon be launched at [www.coastbus.org/OurFuture](http://www.coastbus.org/OurFuture). Visitors to the online landing page will be able to read a project overview, review the project timeline and public event calendar, keep up to date on project happenings and materials, as well as sign-up for notices and provide public comment and input through available surveys and forms.

Nichols added, “Throughout this process, we are committed to achieving our organization’s stated goals of actively engaging our stakeholders in collaborative efforts to be responsive to the region’s changing needs, promoting fiscal stewardship of public transportation, and conducting ourselves with fiscal integrity and transparency that respects the taxpayers and municipalities that we serve.”

The Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST) has provided public transit service to the Seacoast New Hampshire region since 1982. COAST is a public, non-profit transit system that relies primarily on federal and local government support to operate. COAST is governed by a board of directors representing the communities served, two regional planning commissions, and many local and state agencies.

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