



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2020

Contact:

METRO – Denise Beck, Marketing Manager: dbeck@gpmetro.org;

BSOOB Transit: Craig Pendleton, Director of External Affairs cpendleton@BSOOBTransit.org

South Portland Bus Service: John Duncan, Interim Director: jduncan@southportland.org

Southern Maine Transit Agencies Begin Phased-in Return to Regular Service Fare Suspension and Safety Precautions Remain in Place

(PORTLAND, Maine) In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, since March 2020, [Greater Portland METRO](#), [Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit \(BSOOB Transit\)](#), and [South Portland Bus Service \(SPBS\)](#) have operated reduced service schedules, suspended fares, and limited passengers to essential travel only. The three agencies are currently in the process of phasing in their return-to-full-service levels, while planning to implement a new electronic fare system that was delayed due to the pandemic.

During this planning phase, METRO, BSOOB Transit, and South Portland Bus Service will continue to suspend fares on fixed-route service through, at least, July 31, 2020.

Safety precautions, including enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of buses and physical distancing, when possible, will continue. Agencies are installing safety shields inside buses to help ensure the safety of bus operators and passengers. All riders are required to wear a face covering. Capacity on buses is limited to 20 passengers for METRO and SPBS and 50% capacity for BSOOB Transit.

Greater Portland METRO will implement enhanced service changes effective **July 5, 2020**. These schedule updates, part of a phased-in process to restore regular service, will increase frequency and expand the span of service on several routes. Additionally, an inbound bus stop will be added along Main St. Westbrook, near the Rock Row Development, to Route 4 and Husky Line service, which will now travel on Larrabee Rd. The Route 4 stop at Shaw's Westbrook will be eliminated. GPMETRO.ORG | 207-774-0351 | info@gpmetro.org | [Facebook](#)



Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB Transit) will continue to make adjustments to accommodate passengers based on rider demand and as businesses are allowed to open. Zoom Express has added an evening run to accommodate ever-changing work schedules, especially MaineHealth employees.

BSOOBTRANSIT.ORG | 207-282-5408 | info@bsoobTransit.org | [Facebook](#)

South Portland Bus Service plans to add service hours and restore Route 24B in early August.

SOUTHPORTLAND.ORG | 207-767-5556 | rsargent@southportland.org | [Facebook](#)

-###-