



## CITY OF BANGOR

### Government Operations Committee

Monday, January 5, 2026

**Committee Members:** Beck (Committee Chair), Fish, Deane, Walker, Maller

**Non-Committee Members:** Carson, Leonard, Hawes, Faloon

**Staff Present:** C. O'Donnell, C. Lear, L. Linscott

**Opened at 6:35 p.m.**

#### **1. Community Connector Fare Study Discussion-**

Assistant City Manager O'Donnell gave an overview of this project which was funded by the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS), our regional planning organization. Following last month's presentation, we compiled more information that was put together in the packet memo.

There was discussion about the study recommendations to include: increasing the base single ride fare from \$1.50 to \$2.00 and replacing paper tickets with electronic methods, free transfers, fare capping, and free fare access for colleges and university ID holders. There was some conversation about potentially offering free fares for Community Connector.

Cost to move this program forward would be an initial one-time cost which is estimated to be between \$130,000 and \$170,000 to buy the hardware and the software. This amount is grant funded. Then annually about \$30,000 for the licenses and maintenance, but we would go out to bid. Fare revenue will increase as a result of the increase, but it will not be immediate.

If the Council approves the recommendation, we would move forward with an RFP and the implementation. We would expect to start implementing this around December or January of next year depending on the award to the contractor. There is also a lot of training to follow this.

There was discussion about expanding hours of the Community Connector and returning Saturday service, why staffing is difficult and all the regulations and factors that influence it.

Staff explained that the other partners know that the Community Connector is owned and operated by the City of Bangor, and they pay their portion of the local share after federal grant dollars are applied. Bangor's share is about 61% of the local share.

***Councilor Beck made a motion to recommend to full Council; seconded by Councilor Deane-no objection.***

#### **2. Advisory Committee on Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Statement & Request for a Council Order Directing the City Manager to Establish a Transitional Safe Outdoor Space for Unsheltered Residents**



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Committee Chair, Katie Brydon and Vice Chair, Shane Boyes of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights advisory committee presented a proposal to the Committee that would create a sustainable operational plan for emergency encampment for Bangor. Chair Brydon stated that it was put together in hopes it would essentially act as an Order to give the City Manager the ability to identify individuals, whether that be staff, partners in Bangor, or nonprofit organizations that could come together and create a sustainable safe outdoor space. It is a model that is used across the nation and would create a safe outdoor space that could centralize all the resources for folks that are unhoused.

There was significant discussion about this topic with no action taken. The matter is expected to be discussed again at another committee meeting.

### **3. Discussion of Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee**

CM Lear discussed the memo in the packet drafted by the city regarding an advisory committee which is on the agenda for tomorrow night. She clarified that there is also a memo that has been produced by Councilor Beck that is not on the agenda for tomorrow night.

Discussions around the idea of a standing committee and not just a task force, as a task force dissolves when the work is done. If it's a standing committee, the Council would have that ongoing consistency that carryover from one council term to another that could keep an action moving forward. There was further discussion to discuss both possible options, advisory committee and a task force, side by side at tomorrow's meeting.

Meeting adjourned.