

**Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee**  
**Western Maine Transportation Services**

**Press Release**  
**September 19, 2013**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nationally Recognized Transit Expert Hired to Review WMTS Bus Fleets**

Lewiston, Maine 9-19-13---Western Maine Transportation Services General Manager Sandy Buchanan and Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee Chair Phil Nadeau issued a joint statement today announcing that their organizations have jointly signed a contract with Halsey King who is nationally recognized for his transit bus maintenance expertise. King is president of Halsey King & Associates, Inc. which is based in Carlsbad, California. The firm provides a variety of bus transit services including periodic-maintenance performance evaluations, fleet physical reviews, on-site assistance, and engineering.

The decision by WMTS and the Transit Committee is in response to a Maine Department of Transportation June 26, 2013 report which identified safety issues, maintenance practices and some administrative lapses associated with Western Maine's management of its bus fleets. One fleet of ten busses are owned by the Transit Committee but maintained and staffed by WMTS. WMTS also owns, maintains and operates another fleet of busses in the local area and in the Sunday River and Sugarloaf areas during the winter season.

Buchanan stated that she "was very pleased that Halsey King was immediately available and is scheduled to arrive at WMTS' Merrow Road facility in Auburn on Monday". King will be reviewing records, inspecting busses, maintenance practices and also analyzing a number of administrative, inventory and other related areas through the

entire week. Buchanan went on to say that “Mr. King’s expertise and review will be welcome at WMTS as the organization wants to do all that it can to be the top performing transit system in the state.”

Both Buchanan and Nadeau believe that though the June Maine DOT report did identify some safety, maintenance and administrative issues within both fleets, the record will show that WMTS has always worked diligently to address any concern raised internally or by the MDOT and has always worked to improve its overall operations. Both Buchanan and Nadeau also stated that the opportunity to work with Mr. King was not only a significant and important response to the MaineDOT report’s concerns but a way to introduce a new perspective into how WMTS can continue to improve upon its overall fleet management practices.

Nadeau stated that the Transit Committee “believes that our decision to partner with WMTS in hiring Mr. King is not only about WMTS and the Transit Committee’s commitment to bus fleet safety. Our decision to hire this national expert in the transit maintenance field reflects both the WMTS and Transit Committee’s goal to deliver a transit system that will reflect best practices in areas of staffing, policy, administration, training and inventory management that will meet and exceed MaineDOT and the Federal Transit Administration’s expectations about safety and overall bus fleet management.”

A report will be issued within thirty days following King’s week-long visit. Nadeau stated that the report will be made available to the MaineDOT and to the public once it has been finalized.