



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Megan Hannan, Director of Public Affairs, 207.831.9893 for general questions, or

Mike Tremblay, Director of Transit Development, for route or technical questions 207.517.3023

GREATER PORTLAND METRO LAUNCHES UNLIMITED PASS PROGRAM FOR WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

New partnership offers year-round regional transit access alongside targeted Route 3 service updates to serve the high school.

PORTLAND, ME — Greater Portland Metro (Metro) is partnering with Westbrook High School (WHS) to launch a new student transit pass program. Starting this school year, all WHS students will receive a DiriGo bus pass granting them full, unlimited access to the entire Metro and its transit partners' network - seven days a week, all year.

The initiative aims to boost school attendance by offering safe, reliable transportation to students living within the school's 1.5-mile walk zone who are not served by traditional school buses. Simultaneously, the pass empowers all WHS students with greater independence to travel across the region without needing a car or rides from family.

"Metro has a long history of providing students with reliable, flexible transportation" said Glenn Fenton, Metro Executive Director. "This pass gives Westbrook students the freedom to commute to school, access after-school jobs, attend extracurricular activities, and explore the area year-round."

By October, Metro's regional network will feature 15 fixed bus routes and two on-demand micro-transit services across Greater Portland—all accessible via the WHS Dirigo Pass. Passes are also valid on Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB) routes through the Dirigo Pass.

Route 3 Adjustments: Access to Westbrook High School

To support student arrival and dismissal while improving local access, Metro's Route 3 service will feature modified weekday routing and updated departure times:

- **Alternative Routing for Select Trips:** Select Route 3 buses will deviate from Spring Street to Stroudwater Street via Monroe Street. New bus stops at Stroudwater and Monroe streets will place students within a short, sidewalk-connected walking distance to WHS.

This alternative routing will only be used for select trips intended to serve WHS bell times.

- Tailored School Trips: Initially, two southbound trips will serve the new stops during morning arrival, and three northbound trips will serve the location for afternoon dismissal. (*Riders on these trips should plan for slightly longer travel times between Maine Mall and Riverton Hannaford*). Adjustments will be considered if travel patterns indicate a need.
- No Missed Stops: No current bus stops are being eliminated as part of this change.
- Weekday Schedule Shifts:
 - From Maine Mall: Most weekday trips will depart at 30 minutes past the hour (e.g., 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM) instead of on the hour.
 - From Riverton Hannaford: Most weekday trips will depart at or near the top of the hour (e.g., 6:10 AM, 7:00 AM) instead of 40 minutes past the hour.
- Other Routes Unchanged: Service on Route 2, Route 4, and the Husky Line will remain unchanged.

What Riders & Families Need to Know

- Effective Date & Schedule Availability: The routing changes apply to weekdays only. Updated schedules and full route maps will be posted on Metro's website and rider apps in the coming weeks.
- How Students Get Their Passes: Westbrook High School will distribute the bus passes directly to students at the start of the school year.
- Rider Guidance: All Route 3 passengers are encouraged to review the updated timetable prior to the start of the school year to adjust their commute times accordingly.

Building a Connected Region: Programs for Schools & Employers

Westbrook joins Portland and South Portland high schools in providing students with unlimited transit access, marking one of the largest pass programs Metro has launched in recent years.

Metro offers customizable pass programs to organizations across the region, including higher education institutions like the University of Southern Maine and the Roux Institute, as well as major employers like MaineHealth. Employer pass programs help businesses reduce parking congestion, lower commuter stress, and guarantee reliable daily transportation for their workforce.

Schools, employers or others interested in learning more about Metro's pass program should contact Sarah Goodhue, Customer Service Manager, at sgoodhue@gpmetro.org or 774-0351. For more information on Metro routes, schedules, and transit programs, visit gpmetro.org or call customer service at 207.774.0351.

About Greater Portland Metro

Greater Portland Metro is southern Maine's largest public transportation provider, offering fixed-route and on-demand transit services connecting Portland, South Portland, Westbrook, Falmouth, Freeport, Brunswick, Gorham, and Yarmouth. Service to Scarborough will begin in October 2026.

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