

## **Introduction**

On July 16, the City of Portland held a public meeting via Zoom and presented findings from an Existing and Future Conditions analysis and potential study recommendations. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the public to provide input and feedback. The following is a summary of comments, polling results, and questions raised at the meeting. Staff from Casco Bay Lines also participated.

## **Summary of Topic/Comment Areas raised during input periods and via Zoom Chat**

### *Input session #1 : Existing and Future Conditions*

- There has been no mention of the issue of golf carts on Welch St. There is a rental business right next to Jones Landing.
- The growth in ferry ridership needs to be stemmed, not just exploited. Peaks cannot sustain more and more and more traffic.
- We do not want to plan to increase traffic to Peaks Island.
- Why not embrace growth like Mackinac Island, MI?
- Past islander input into [many of these issues] has been ignored.
- The presentation ignores the pandemic. Analysis is intended to justify a bigger ferry boat.
- There should be a priority on islanders, resident passenger and vehicle discounts, a vehicle reservation system and no bigger boat.
- The majority of island residents do not want a bigger boat that will cause larger/major operations issues.
- The island is now beyond its carrying capacity. Need to look at sustainability
- There are many safety and multimodal/multidirectional issues with Welch Street.
- CBITD mission should be to help preserve and sustain year-round viability of Peaks Island neighborhood, not accommodating larger tourist/day tripper crowds. Concern that growth in tourism is destroying a residential neighborhood.
- Pedestrians need to be funneled better.
- Look at options for use of other docks/landing areas for ferries.
- As in other areas of Portland, there are impacts from visitors. Peaks Island is no different.
- With the pandemic and its resulting trends (working remotely), Peaks Island could instead be part of providing housing and space for Portland's growth.
- The state/MaineDOT need to be more formally involved with the City and CBL

### *Input session #2: Potential Recommendations Concepts*

- Study is not placing the proper focus on island residents but rather tourists/day trippers.
- Islanders have repeatedly said they do not want a larger ferry for Peaks Island and are being ignored.
- With budget shortfalls, investment is wrongly proposed to focus on day trippers.
- The choices presented are the wrong choices.
- Study is ignoring the impacts of the pandemic and the need for social distancing, not increasing/creating more crowding.
- The large increase in events and accommodating them have the potential to destroy the neighborhood/Peaks Island.
- Your presentation seems to support CBL rather than the Peaks Island Community. We cannot build the infrastructure to continue to accommodate the growing number of people you project which

would be to dramatically change the island. We don't want that. This is a fragile island that can't support the number of tourists.

- Vehicle reservations is an idea worth exploring likely more as a short-term solution rather than long-term.
- Islanders should be the priority not day-trippers. Peaks Island does not need to become a tourist festival.
- Golf cart rentals at landing and going up and down Welch St create safety issues and a bottleneck.
- Peaks Island was once much busier. There is a conflict between the amenities wanted and resistance to growth by islanders.
- Passenger safety is a big issue. There are concerns about safety on the boat, safety issues caused by skateboards, bicycles, and golf carts. Having staff would help but they need to take an active role in management.

## Questions

### *1. How many participants are on line tonight?*

There were 23 separate logins to the Zoom meeting including 2(?) persons on the phone. There may have been multiple persons participating with each login.

### *2. Will the Maine Department of Transportation be involved/what is their role in the planning of this project?*

We have been in coordination/communication regarding this planning process since the beginning but they have not been a direct participant. When/if any of the recommendations potentially impact MaineDOT property or equipment (such as the transfer bridge), we'll coordinate to the extent needed.

### *3. How many of these are event driven? When wedding party or corporate/alumni group requires influx of patrons all arriving at same time? Is there a way to track this data? Should event organizers have to "give a heads-up" to CBL when an event is scheduled? How many are directly attributable to Sunday concert series?*

The question generally relates to the number of "capacity" trips – whereby the waiting queue reaches or exceeds the capacity of the returning trip from Peaks Island to the mainland. We don't have quantitative data that links these capacity trips to specific events but anecdotally there is certainly a correlation between good weather weekends, holiday weekends, the overall increase in events such as concerts and weddings/parties, etc, and ferry ridership. Coordinating with large events will be considered in the study recommendations.

### *4. What about EMT access to fire boat?*

We have heard about this general concern that peak vehicle and passenger queues could impact EMT/emergency access from the island. Prior to finalizing any recommendations, we will reach out to the public safety departments (Police, and Fire/EMT) regarding any specific issues they have observed with respect to access to Peaks Island.

### *5. Does CBITD have landing rights at other locations (such as Trefethan) to use other boats/pick up some of the other passengers in other locations on the island?*

\*\* This suggestion will be investigated as part of our meeting follow-up.

*6. How has the planning partnership between City and CBITD been formalized? How will MaineDOT be involved?*

The City is leading this study in collaboration with Casco Bay Lines staff. Re MaineDOT, see above, Q2.

**Polling questions.**

**Sharing Poll Results**

Attendees are now viewing the poll results

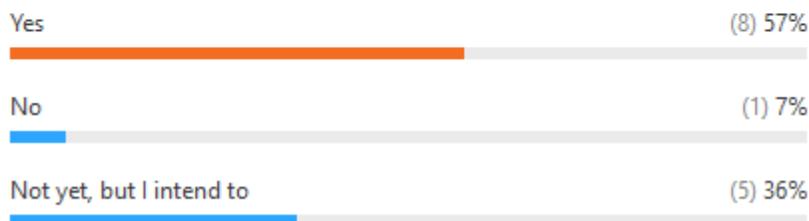
**1. What best describes your relationship to Peaks Island?**



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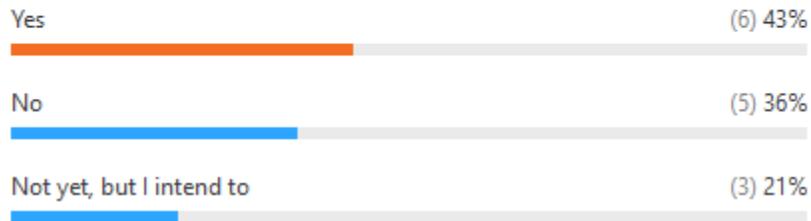
**1. Have you visited the project website to review background materials?**



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### 1. Have you filled out the online survey?



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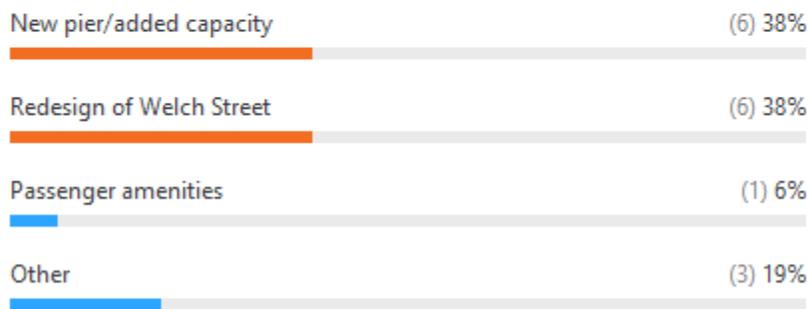
### 1. Most important type of changes?



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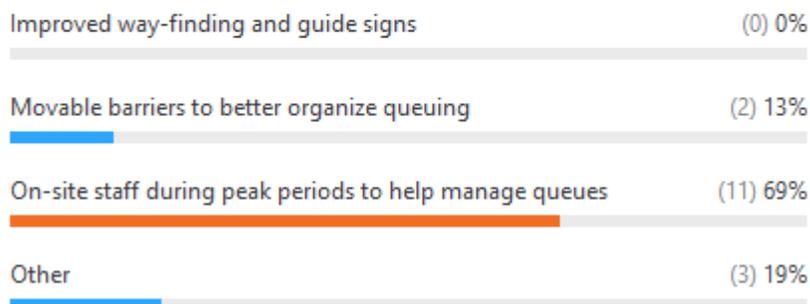
### 1. Most important type of infrastructure changes?



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### 1. Most important type of operations changes?



## Sharing Poll Results

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### 1. Most Important Type of Demand Management Changes?

