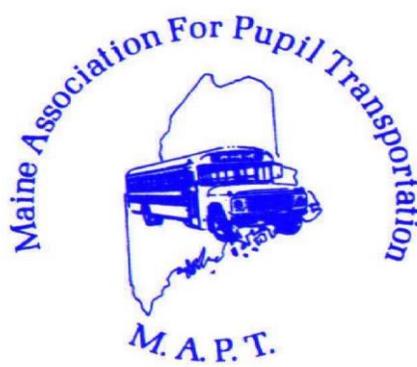


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April 10, 2020

Dear MAPT Community,

Over the past several days and weeks I have communicated, met with (virtually) and listened to fellow Transportation Directors and teams across the United States and how they are dealing with the current state of our Country. It is always a refreshing reminder that we are not in this alone. Much like many of our districts and communities, transportation departments in New York, California, Nevada, and Arizona are facing the same concerns and new ways of thinking as we are here in Maine.

All of our school bus drivers, bus monitors, van drivers, administrators, much like the staff and students have had to adjust how they live and work each day. I can say that Maine has risen to the challenge at all levels in comparison to many other states, ensuring our staff continue to be paid, utilizing services for other means such as food service and work disbursement. Though there have been some hurdles to get over, this is new territory and we have taken the time to find the problem and create a solution for them rather than giving up. And to that I say Thank You! Thank you all for the hard work and dedication you have put into continuing the chain of education for our communities and our state.

A lot has changed, and new developments have been recommended across our state and country. Speaking specifically here in Maine, the Maine Association for Pupil Transportation has continued the work they started in October and continually looking at how best to proceed into the coming months. First and foremost, all who work on a committee or serve on the board have the greatest intentions to be able to provide the best programming and services to transportation departments in Maine and work collaboratively with our member partners and agencies. In a letter sent out in early March, announcing the cancellation of the 2020 Regional Conferences was the first of many decisions the conference committee and board was to make. I am happy to report that on Friday the full conference committee will be meeting to work on providing online versions of the classes that would have been taught in April and June at our conferences allowing departments to use them via our website, how they see fit with their own personnel. More information will be coming out soon about this.

No one knew in October when the hours of planning started and continued in the months since that we would be faced with an even bigger challenge such as this. Myself, Vice President, Michelle Caron, Conference Chairs, Dottie Muchmore and Brenda Cravens and Skills Chair Cliff Chase met last week to discuss the State Conference scheduled in July at Sugarloaf. This discussion has many directions, strong emotions and great alternative planning. Many factors such as vendor partners, presenters and school folks all traveling from many areas from across the state and country, the possibility of schools not returning until the fall, budget restraints from districts and inability to continue planning the unknown were all taken into account. We quickly

***“Remember, The Cargo We Carry Is The Most Precious In The World”***

realized that we have a lot of optimism but needed to focus on the reality. The reality of what was best for our state conference and all entities.

It is at this time we sadly announce the cancellation of the 2020 MAPT State of Maine School Bus Safety Conference, scheduled for July 20-24, 2020 at Sugarloaf Hotel and Resort.

**To our Transportation Departments:**

This was a very difficult decision, but feel it was best on the many factors weighing against us. It is the goal of the committee to plan a smaller 2 day director's event at an alternative location in July should the recommendations allow. The goal of this would be to ensure there is open communication, speakers from across Maine and a time to reflect on the past few months, the present and going forward. This will be announced once restrictions are lifted and the plans are finalized.

Any department or personnel who has already booked a room at Sugarloaf for the event will receive a full refund for any money paid at this time. These rooms will be cancelled in early May with refunds and information coming soon from Sugarloaf to you specifically.

**To our Presenters:**

Thank you from the entire MAPT Board and membership for your willingness to present at our conference this year. We had a wonderful schedule planned this year, with a variety of information to be presented. It is our goal to keep the schedule planned for this year and roll it over to our July 2021 conference. A member of our conference planning committee will be reaching out in the coming months to work on this with you and book all our presenters for July 2021.

Again thank you for your continued support of our programs.

**To our Vendor Partners:**

We greatly thank those who already registered online or via email to attend this year's event. A huge thank you to those who provided sponsorships for the MAPT event, viewing the great program we provide to many transportation professionals across Maine.

For those who have already registered and/or paid, we have a few options for you:

1. Full Refund: If you paid by the square app (online) we will refund through the app. If you sent a check, we will send a refund check back to you.
2. Roll Over: You can choose to roll over your registration and fees to MAPT 2021 if you would like. We plan to host again July 2021 at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Please email our vendor coordinator at [maptvendor@gmail.com](mailto:maptvendor@gmail.com) lettering her know how you wish to proceed and pertinent information about getting the funds returned to the correct department.

Any vendor who has already booked a room at Sugarloaf for the event will receive a full refund for any money paid at this time. These rooms will be cancelled in early May with refunds and information coming soon from Sugarloaf to you specifically.

Again thank you for your continued support of our programs.

MAPT continues to work with school districts across Maine in the promotion of safety for all. Know that this decision was not made lightly, but one we feel is warranted due to the current situation and factors many of our programs and attendees will be facing. Take the time to ensure your staff that we are all in this together and to continue the great work we are seeing them do across Maine. It is not going unrecognized and is a great model for others to follow.

We appreciate your understanding of this difficult decision and apologies for any trouble these changes may have caused your departments. As always please feel free to reach out to me or any board member with questions or concerns. We will do our best to keep folks updated about COVID-19 as further information is presented.

Thank you and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam J. Mayo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adam J. Mayo  
President  
Maine Association for Pupil Transportation