



THE MAINE DOWNTOWN COALITION

The Maine Downtown Coalition is an alliance of nonprofit organizations, town and city officials, Main Street programs, business people and others dedicated to revitalizing Maine communities and fostering redevelopment of some of our most unique assets: our historic Main Streets and downtown districts.

We strive to provide resources and tools to help protect and enhance town & city centers, and to reach out to a diverse group of allies including conservationists, businesses, government, and many others.

Whether you live in Maine or you're a visitor, you know that one of the things that makes this state unique is the proliferation of historic downtown districts, Main Streets, villages, and our small-town character. From Fort Kent to Kittery, these jewels are the centers of economic, cultural and social activity, and the very heart of the community.

The Challenge

Over time, we've built up a proliferation of rules and regulations that discourage investment in these special areas; and increasingly people, investment and development are being pushed to surrounding rural and suburban communities.

This presents several challenges for Maine:

- Empty storefronts and vacant Main Street buildings can mean a loss of community vitality and economic activity.
- It costs more to serve a dispersed population because we are forced to build redundant infrastructure and provide services to a larger area. The cost of government in fast growing rural and suburban communities tends to rise as population increases- particularly when a town passes the 2,500-3,500 mark.
- Increased driving from the proliferation of auto-dependent development outside our town centers increases greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.
- Sprawling development and the loss of community vitality both threaten the quality of this place – our natural landscape and unique livable communities – that are part of our unique competitive advantage: the Maine 'brand.'

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What are we working for?

We have joined forces to help protect and enhance our unique communities across the state. Our goals are:

- Build a broad-based coalition to advocate for Maine's historic downtowns, Main Streets, village centers and surrounding neighborhoods;
- Remove barriers to successful redevelopment of our downtowns and Main Streets;
- Promote investment in these special places to preserve and enhance the Maine 'brand;'
- Address emerging threats to the vitality of our towns and cities;
- Educate, advocate and train citizens to incorporate historic preservation tools and techniques into downtown vitality efforts;
- And make it easier for people to live, work, go to school, visit, shop, and worship in our town and city centers.

What can you do?

Join us! Please sign on as a supporter of our coalition and add your voice to the growing chorus for the revitalization of Maine's towns, Main Streets, and cities! Email info@growsmartmaine.org.

For more information, visit:

www.growsmartmaine.org/downtowns

Members of the Maine Downtown Coalition include:

Maine Preservation, Portland
Maine Downtown Center, Augusta
GrowSmart Maine, Portland
Coastal Enterprises, Inc, Wiscasset
Mattson Development, Winthrop
The Service Center Coalition, Augusta
Saco Spirit
The Heart of Biddeford
Waterville Main Street
Gardiner Maine Street
The National Trust for Historic Preservation
Greater Portland Landmarks
Friends of Midcoast Maine, Camden
Maine Center for Economic Policy, Augusta
Sealander Studio, Ellsworth
Tom Niemann, Niemann Capital
Paul Boghossian, Hathaway Creative Center

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Skowhegan Main Street
Maine Street Bath
Dana Totman, Avesta Housing, Portland
Portland Trails
South Portland Land Trust
Barba + Wheelock, Architects, Portland
Lewiston/Auburn Economic Growth Council
Denis Lachman, Lachman Architects &
Planners, Portland
Androscoggin Land Trust, Lewiston
Developers Collaborative, Portland
David Flood, Developer, Biddeford
Sanford Downtown Legacy
Van Buren Chamber/Maine Street
Maine Development Foundation

Maine Community Development Association,
Augusta
Preservation Planning Associates, Buxton
City of Lewiston
Maine Audubon, Falmouth
State Planning Office
Andrea Burns, Norway Downtown
Sue Inches, North Yarmouth
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Ted Koffman, Portland
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Innovation
Rockland Main Street, Inc.
Capital Riverfront Improvement