

MCAPWA News

CONNECTING PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS IN MAINE



MAINEDOT SNOWFIGHTER SAVES STRANDED MOTORIST

David Bing, a snowplow operator working out of the MaineDOT Fort Kent office, noticed a vehicle several hundred yards off the road on Soucy Hill, on Route 11 earlier this month. The motorist was stuck in his vehicle and had been stranded for several hours. David was able to call for assistance and stayed with the motorist until help arrived.

Route 11 can be a lonely road, except for moose - who aren't much help in an emergency. The motorist is lucky to have good people like David behind the wheel, paying attention and willing to help where help is needed!

<https://www.facebook.com/MaineDOT/posts/pfbid02eNfpCDESA5yw8U6JqEcFWxwtTWzRtpRhhSg1x2Q3r7YCPQQxKAqrWsmVP3YwSSTbl>



MIKE MORIN, CERTIFIED PUBLIC FLEET PROFESSIONAL

Mike Morin, Fleet Services Director at the Bangor Public Works Fleet Division, earned a Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP) designation from APWA. He pored over APWA study materials and attended online training for nearly a year before sitting for the 150-question, 4-hour exam. He will maintain his certification with ongoing educational opportunities.

Congratulations Mike!



MTA LOSES NEW PLOW TRUCKS

Maine Turnpike Authority, Auburn, lost 4 new plow trucks in an early February fire. The loss also included a box truck, traffic control truck, pickup truck, and tools used for maintenance of the vehicles. MTA says that winter operations will not be affected by the loss of the vehicles.

No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2025/02/03/maine-turnpike-authority-garage-in-auburn-destroyed-in-fire/>

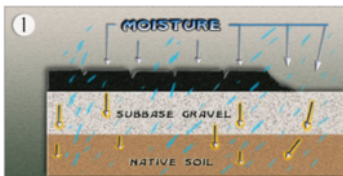


LEWISTON PW LOOKS TO CONSOLIDATE FACILITIES

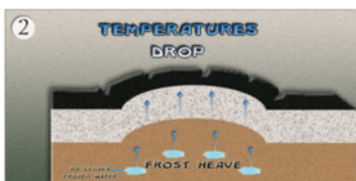
After more than 70 years on Adams Ave., Lewiston PW is considering a consolidation to their facility on River Road, where there is plenty of room for new buildings and the increasing sizes of their equipment. The \$60MM project has been presented to City Council and will now go to voters for approval.

<https://wgme.com/news/local/city-officials-working-on-plan-to-consolidate-lewiston-public-works-department#>

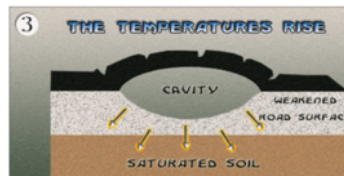
Potholes begin after moisture seeps into the native soil below the road surface and subbase gravel. This moisture comes in the form of rain, snow or water seeping into the roadbed due to poor roadside drainage.



As the temperatures drop ice lenses of frozen water form, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up as this is the direction of least resistance.



As the temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains elevated above the once frozen area. This creates a cavity between the pavement and the material below it.



When vehicles travel over this cavity, the surface cracks after numerous impacts of vehicles traveling over the cavity. The pavement crumbles and falls into the cavity, leading to a pothole.



<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/mlrc/technical/roadinfo/>

POTHOLES

Sponsors

The events MCAPWA hosts are meant to be educational, engaging, and entertaining for public works employees, but they also cost money. If you are a business who is interested in furthering the mission of the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association, here's an idea:



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Support the work & mission of the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association



ARTERIAL | \$2,500

- All Collector & Townway benefits plus:
- Two players in golf tourney & hole sign
 - Two tickets to Fall Meeting, plus meal tickets
 - Priority placement on front page of website
 - Scholarship sponsorship



COLLECTOR | \$1,500

- All Townway benefits plus:
- Booth at Highway Congress
 - Two tickets to spring meeting
 - Listing on sponsorship board at all in-person events
 - Scholarship sponsorship



TOWNWAY | \$500

- Logo and link on sponsor page of MCAPWA website
- Logo or name on president's 'welcome' letter

Ask about individual sponsorship opportunities!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.maine.apwa.net

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Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets eleven times each year and all APWA members are invited to attend. Public Works officials who are interested in learning more about MCAPWA membership can contact any member of the Executive Board for more information and an invitation to the next meeting. The Executive Committee is made up of:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|
| President | Scott Holland | Public Works Director, Auburn |
| Vice President | Aaron Huotari | Public Works Director, Bangor |
| Treasurer | David Cote | Public Works Director, Brewer |
| Secretary | Ryan Barnes | Project Manager, Gorrill Palmer |
| Past President | Ralph Norwood | Deputy Director, Maine Turnpike Authority |
| APWA Delegate | Eric Labelle | Principal Project/Process Eng., Kennebunkport |
| Director | Mary Ann Brenchick | Deputy Public Works Director, Augusta |
| Director | Ryan Carrigan | Vice President, Ray Labbe & Sons |
| Director (new) | Owen Chaplin | Project Manager, Wright Pierce |
| Director (new) | Robert Clark | Public Works Director, Easton |
| Director | Dennis Cox | Public Works Director, Topsham |
| Director (new) | Melissa Hutchins | Public Works Director, South Portland |
| Director | Dean Lessard | Public Works Director, York |
| Director | Dan Matchett | Sales, H.P. Fairfield |
| Director | Tom Martin | Owner, ANNACO Construction Services |
| Director | Mike Morin | Fleet Services Director, Bangor |
| Director | Mike Murray | Public Works Director, Portland |
| Director | Stewart Sevey | Owner, Allied Equipment |
| Director | Barry Sheff | Senior Principal, Woodard & Curran |
| Educational Liaison | Peter Coughlan | Director, MeDOT Local Roads Center |

Visit our webpage for more information about our chapter membership, educational opportunities, job postings, and more! maine.apwa.org

Looking Ahead

- Feb-May, 2025** *MLRC Training - Roadway Fundamentals, Work Zone Control, & Maintaining Gravel Roads.* Maine Local Roads Center is offering 19 training sessions all over the state to help prepare PW organizations for their work and to help them become a Road Scholar! See our website for more information.
- Apr. 3, 2025** *MCAPWA Spring Meeting.* This is the meeting where public works folks come together from all over the state to pray that winter operations are done for the year. Unfortunately, last year this event was cancelled due to a snowstorm... Educational presentations, networking, and good food make it an easy decision to attend this spring event.
- Apr. 6-9, 2025** *APWA Snow Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.* The annual APWA Snow Conference is THE place get together with other PW professionals to debrief from the winter's challenges and start developing new strategies that can be deployed for winter '25-'26!
- Apr-May, 2025** *Supervisory Leadership in Public Works.* This training program was designed to provide educational resources for Public Works Departments across the state to develop existing employees, preparing them for promotion to leadership roles. The spring class is full but keep your eyes on our website for a fall class announcement!
- May 18-24, 2025** *National Public Works Week.* Since 1960, APWA has sponsored National Public Works Week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.
- Jun. 5, 2025** *32nd MCAPWA Highway Congress in Skowhegan, ME.* This is the region's best municipal show. I have been told we outperform the other regional shows and vendors line up to meet the 1,000 or so municipal employees who come to Skowhegan for training, equipment demos, the Snowplow Road-eo, and the Lions Club BBQ chicken lunch!
- Aug.17-20, 2025** *PWX Conference in Chicago, IL.* PWX is chock full of education, fun, and camaraderie. I encourage PW departments to send someone every year and witness the innovative ideas and positive energy that comes back.
- Sept. 24-26, 2025** *Western Snow & Ice Conference in Loveland, CO.* Home of the national Snowplow Road-eo competition. MCAPWA sends the winners of the state Snowplow Road-eo to this event every year. This could be your year to visit Colorado!
- Sep. 2025** *Annual MCAPWA Golf Classic.* Each fall we get 25-30 teams together for friendly competition on the golf course. Like most of our events, the proceeds benefit the MCAPWA scholarship fund.
- Oct. 2, 2025** *MCAPWA Annual Fall Meeting, at the MMA convention in Bangor, ME.* MCAPWA takes over one of the lecture halls on the 2nd day of the MMA conference to present informative and educational sessions relevant to public works and municipal operations. Oh yeah - we also serve food!
- Dec. 4, 2025** *74th Annual Maine Better Transportation Conference.* The Maine Better Transportation Association is hosting the 74th Annual Maine Transportation Conference at the Augusta Civic Center.

Why Should You Support MCAPWA?

The **M**aine **C**hapter of the **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**MCAPWA**) was formed in 1957. We are one of 62 **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**APWA**) chapters with 90 branches all over the United States and Canada.

The APWA was formed when the American Society of Municipal Engineers (AME) and the International Association of Public Works Officials (IAPWO) joined together under the APWA name in 1937.

APWA's mission is to support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

At the Maine Chapter, we advance the APWA mission by representing a vibrant community of Public Works professionals in Maine. We are committed to fostering professional growth, facilitating meaningful connections, and promoting excellence within our industry.

However, this isn't easy work. Each of us already have full-time jobs that keep us very busy. Despite this, we recognize the need for education, development, and networking of our Public Works brothers and sisters. We devote time to develop and execute PW training programs throughout the year. We plan and host fun, educational events. Even with all that we are doing already, we think there is a need for us to do more!

We are working to develop pathways from Maine Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools into our PW departments. An internship, whether a month, semester, or full school year, is a great opportunity for students to develop critical skills that strengthen their classroom education. It's also a great opportunity for PW organizations across the state to make a positive impression on these students. They are the future, and you can convince them that they should be working for you! Once the documentation and methodology for getting these students into your shop is documented, we will freely share it with everyone!

We are also working on the development of apprenticeship program templates that you can grab and use as your own. An apprenticeship registered with the State of Maine is a powerful signal to potential employees that you are a first-class organization that can and will train them for success! We are currently working on apprenticeship programs for Heavy Equipment Operators, Fleet Technicians, and Electricians/Traffic Signal Techs.

MCAPWA currently has around 170 members. We could use your help with the important work I described above and in steering MCAPWA into the future of professional growth, meaningful connections, and industry excellence!