



Remote Participation Policy

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1. Policy Statement

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 403-B, and after public notice and hearing, the Board of Directors of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) has adopted the following policy to govern the participation, by remote methods, of members of the Board and the public in the Board's meetings.

2. Participation Policy

2a: Priority of Physically Present Meetings

Members of the NNEPRA Board of Directors are expected to be physically present for Board meetings except when not practicable, such as (i) in the case of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the Board to meet by remote methods, or (ii) the illness, other physical condition, or temporary absence of a Board member from Maine that causes the Board member to face significant difficulties travelling to and attending a Board meeting in person at the location stated in the notice of the meeting.

2b: Remote Methods of Participation

Remote methods of participation in Board meetings may include telephone or video technology allowing simultaneous reception of information and may include other means necessary to accommodate disabled persons. Remote participation will not be by text-only means such as email, text messages, or chat functions.

2c: Public Opportunity to Attend and Comment

Members of the public will be provided a meaningful opportunity to attend Board meetings by remote methods when any member of the Board participates by remote methods. If public input is allowed or required at such a Board meeting, an effective means of communication between the Board and the public also will be provided.

2d: Notice

Notice of all Board meetings will be provided in accordance with 1 M.R.S. § 406. When the public may attend a Board meeting using remote methods, the notice of the meeting will include the means by which the public may access the meeting remotely and will provide a method for disabled persons to request necessary accommodation to access the meeting. The notice also will identify the location where the public may attend the meeting in person. Unless there is a determination by the Board chair of the existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the entire Board to meet using remote methods, the Board will not limit public attendance solely to remote participation.

2e: Board Meeting Materials

NNEPRA will make all documents and other materials considered by the Board available, electronically

or otherwise, to the public who attend Board meetings by remote methods to the same extent customarily available to members of the public who attend Board meetings in person, as long as additional costs are not incurred by NNEPRA.

2f: Quorum and Voting

At the beginning of each Board meeting when any member of the Board participates by remote methods, a quorum call of Board members will be held to ensure the audio function is working and communications are clear. Any Board member who participates in a meeting by remote methods is present for purposes of quorum and voting.

All votes taken during a Board meeting using remote methods must be taken by roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology, and heard if using only audio technology, by the other Board members and the public.

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