

10. REGIONAL COORDINATION

The Town of Wiscasset continues to be linked in a number of ways to other nearby communities. The following is a summary of some of Wiscasset's regional coordination/cooperation efforts. This Plan envisions that these efforts will continue and that they will benefit all participating communities.

Wiscasset Municipal Airport. The Wiscasset Municipal Airport has been serving Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties since 1960. Sixty-five percent of general aviation flights are conducted for business and public services that need transportation more flexible than airlines can offer. The airport serves a wide variety of users including Life Flight and Angel Flight medical evacuations, businesses and vacationers for access to Midcoast Maine., law enforcement agencies, power line and pipeline patrols, the National Guard and federal government.

Wiscasset Ambulance Service. The Wiscasset Ambulance Service (WAS) provides emergency medical services to Wiscasset, Alna, Edgecomb and Westport. The WAS has provided service to Alna, Edgecomb and Westport for nearly three decades without charge with the exception of contributions in recent years for paramedic training and the replacement of one ambulance.

Wiscasset Public Library. The Wiscasset Public Library serves the residents of Wiscasset, Westport, Edgecomb and Alna. Each of these communities makes an annual contribution so their residents can use the services of the Library.

Wiscasset School Department. Approximately 25% of the students attending the Wiscasset School system are tuition students who live in other communities. Some come from nearby communities (Alna, Westport), while others come from more distant communities (for example, Bristol).

Fire Protection. The Fire Department serves not only Wiscasset, but also provides mutual aid to other communities. During one recent 18-month period, there were 176 fire calls, of which 40 were for mutual aid.

Regional Initiatives. Wiscasset has been and continues to be involved in a number of regional studies and initiatives including the Midcoast Council for Business Development and Planning, the bypass issue, the Gateway 1 initiative, the Sourcewater Protection Plan for Nequasset Lake, and efforts to extend rail service between Brunswick and Rockland, to name a few.

Comprehensive Plan Strategies. There are a number of Comprehensive Plan policies and strategies that support continued regional coordination. These include the following:

Economy

1. A. Transportation links. Encourage inter-modal transportation links – cruise, tour/ferry boat dock and passenger rail station.

1. F. Cruise ships. Attract cruise ships to Wiscasset by initiating a modest marketing effort to those companies that operate small ships in the New England/Canada range.

Natural Resources

1. C. Open Space Plan. Prepare an open space plan for the Town that identifies, documents and prioritizes important open space resources and recommends strategies for protecting those resources...Coordinate efforts with Woolwich, Alna and Dresden.

4. B. Nequasset Lake. Participate in the Sourcewater Protection Plan for Nequasset Lake, an ongoing multi-town effort to protect the quality of Nequasset Lake.

4. E. Sheepscot River. Participate with all organizations interested in the future of the Sheepscot River. Organize joint participation with towns who share the Sheepscot River watershed.

Transportation

4. A. Midcoast Partnership. Create a partnership among neighboring towns to face shared transportation challenges and find joint solutions that do not harm the midcoast region's small-town, rural character and environmental assets.