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Community Transportation Improvement Packet Letter, 2006

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE
COMMISSIONER

The enclosed "Community Transportation Improvement Packet" is the single most effective way to make MaineDOT aware of your transportation improvement needs. To receive full consideration, your requests must be received at MaineDOT by April 15, 2006.

March 6, 2006

Dear Municipal Official:

MaineDOT places a high priority on municipal input when planning, designing, and implementing transportation improvement projects. The enclosed materials represent your community's opportunity to let us know your recommendations for MaineDOT's Biennial Capital Work Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2009.

Since funding is more constrained than ever, prioritizing, with your input, becomes more important. We are asking communities that responded to MaineDOT's 2004 Transportation Improvement Packet to either verify your community's priorities, or submit new priorities. If you did not respond in 2004, please take the time to do so this year. Because we are facing the unprecedented funding challenges outlined below, it is more important than ever before for you to formally document your most urgent transportation priorities.

- MaineDOT was forced to defer approximately \$130 million in transportation projects from the FY 2006-2007 Biennial Capital Work Plan. The *Governor's Capital Transportation Funding Working Group* has made recommendations that have the potential to reinstate the majority of those deferrals. However, any project not reinstated will be a top priority for the Biennial Capital Work Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2009.
- MaineDOT is reconsidering more than *\$1.3 billion* in unfunded project requests and needs from the Biennial Capital Work Plan for Fiscal Years 2006-2007.
- Provisions in the federal surface transportation act for 2005 through 2009 limit how federal funding may be used, and dedicate approximately 20% of Maine's federal bridge and highway funding to specific projects.
- Nationwide, the construction industry is facing unprecedented increases in costs for construction materials such as petroleum, concrete, and steel.

We understand that municipal officials are very busy and often wear many hats, so we have worked hard to make this opportunity to submit priorities simple and direct. But, if you should have questions, please contact Bill Croce by phone at 1-800-380-7822, ext. 5, or by e-mail at Bill.Croce@maine.gov. My thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David A. Cole
Commissioner



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