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News Release

For Release at 1:00 p.m. - August 15, 2007

**Contact: Meg Lane, 692-3092
 Herb Thomson, 624-3030**

GORHAM BYPASS CONSTRUCTION START CELEBRATED

GORHAM, Maine – A ceremonial groundbreaking for the long-awaited Gorham Bypass was held today. MaineDOT Commissioner David Cole, Congressman Tom Allen, Federal Highway Administration Maine Division Administrator Jonathan McDade, and Gorham Town Council Chairman Norman E. Justice presided over the ceremony, acknowledging the start of the \$28.8 million construction project. Shaw Brothers of Gorham was awarded the contract for the roadwork. Technical Construction, Inc. of Auburn was recently awarded the contract for the Flaggy Meadow Road Bridge. The entire project is expected to be completed by June 2009.

Traffic on this bypass is expected to be 7,090 vehicles daily, and it is projected that this figure will reach 9,540 vehicles by 2027. The intent is to connect Routes 25 and 114 to help alleviate traffic congestion and improve safety in downtown Gorham.

The new bypass begins at Route 114 with a roundabout, proceeds westerly approximately one mile, swings northerly to intersect with Route 202 at another roundabout, continues northerly, then goes under Flaggy Meadow Road, and ends at another roundabout on Route 25. There are three bridge structures on the project, including one at Flaggy Meadow Road and two at stream crossings—one at a tributary to Gully Brook and one at Gully Brook. It is expected that Flaggy Meadow Road will be closed for several months as work on the road and that bridge takes place.

As the juncture of four numbered U.S. and state highways (Routes 4, 25, 114, and 202), Gorham Village is a vital link for northern and western communities as motorists head to and from Portland's employment centers, USM's Gorham campus, the Maine Mall, the Portland Jetport, Sebago Lake and the Maine Turnpike. The bypass is designed to improve public safety and balances meaningful transportation benefits with environmental and social benefits.