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Public Comments on Appendix B : MaineDOT's Economic Recovery Plan, for the Comment Period Feb. 25 to March 11, 2009

Maine Department of Transportation

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Public Comments on Appendix B: MaineDOT's Economic Recovery Plan (For the comment period Feb. 25 to March 11, 2009)

Contact	From	Date	Nature of Comment	Response
Rep. Michael Beaulieu	Auburn	3/4/09	Inquired, on behalf of the Auburn city manager, about whether the City would be able to reprogram money originally used to support a project in Auburn that is being delivered through the economic stimulus package.	Existing projects were funded through the Economic Recovery package in order to deliver them in 2009 as scheduled. Otherwise, projects may have had to be deferred.
Rick Cloutier, Manager	Auburn-Lewiston Airport	2/25/09	The aviation portion of the stimulus package is vague. The Aeronautical Advisory Committee should be clearly briefed on all the whether these projects have been identified, what stage they are in and how the projects will be implemented.	MaineDOT is working to obtain a list of specific projects from the Federal Aviation Administration.
Rep. Anna Blodgett	Augusta	3/3/09	Emailed concerns about the condition of Route 27 in Augusta, between the state office complex and the Chelsea line.	This section of road is listed in MaineDOT's Six Year Plan and two-year work plan as a candidate for paving.
Gilbert Lapierre	Augusta	3/10/09	Asked to see a list of rail projects funded through the Economic Recovery package.	The rail portion is discretionary funding. MaineDOT is awaiting guidance from the Federal Transit Administration.
Sen. Joseph Perry	Bangor		Wrote to Commissioner Cole urging MaineDOT to repair the road.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement as part of its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would begin at Annis Road and proceed easterly 4.89 miles to the Bangor city line. The schedule would depend on available funding.
Robert Elwell	Bar Mills		Repair Rt. 112 Buxton from Rt. 202 to Saco. This section of Rt. 112 is a Truck Route heavily traveled by Poland Spring Water trucks.	The project is being considered for inclusion in MaineDOT's 2010-2011 capital program, contingent upon available funding.
Tom Mulligan, City Engineer	Biddeford	3/2/09	Asked about the status of an aviation candidate in Biddeford. The city had submitted for consideration a drainage improvement project at the municipal airport.	MaineDOT is awaiting word from the Federal Aviation Administration on which candidates submitted to the FAA for consideration will be approved.
Mary Ellen Johnson	Buxton	3/6/09	Urged MaineDOT to repair Route 112 from Saco to Buxton. "This road has heavy continuous tractor trailer traffic going to and from the Poland Spring Bottling plant. It is in terrible, if not dangerous condition, with cracks, broken pavement on both shoulders, dips, holes and too many frost heaves to count."	A reconstruction project on Route 112 is being considered for inclusion in MaineDOT's 2010-2011 capital program, depending upon available funding.
Marjorie L. Pendleton	Buxton	3/6/09	When will route 112 in Saco-Buxton be under construction? The Poland Springs trucks are really destroying the road.	A reconstruction project on Route 112 is being considered for inclusion in MaineDOT's 2010-2011 capital program, depending upon available funding.
Eric Kangas	Camden	2/27/09	Voiced displeasure that the benefits of the economic stimulus funding most likely will flow out of state to Pike Industries, through the I-295 project from Topsham to Gardiner.	I-295 northbound was one of MaineDOT's top priorities for Economic Recovery spending because it is crucial to the state's economy. MaineDOT – which has a low-bid policy – awarded the project to Pike Industries Inc., which was the lowest of two bidders at \$31,469,000. MaineDOT estimates that the project will result in employment for more than 800 people, most of them from Maine.
Ted Panayotoff	Camden	3/5/09	Is there any Transportation Enhancement funding available in the American Recovery and Reinvestment funding?	The Economic Recovery package includes a Transportation Enhancement component. However, MaineDOT will only consider existing Transportation Enhancement applications that did not receive funding.
Lawrence Grant	Carmel	2/25/09	Recommends going forward with a project to rebuild US 2, Newport, Etna, Carmel and Hermon. This highway is in very poor, sub-standard condition.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement as part of its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would begin at Annis Road and proceed easterly 4.89 miles to the Bangor city line. The schedule would depend on available funding.

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Dale Bartlett	Casco	3/9/09	Questioned why MaineDOT is rebuilding I-295 when there are many other routes needing repair throughout Maine. He mentioned specifically the condition of Route 25 from Cornish to Kezar Falls.	Repairing I-295 northbound was one of MaineDOT's top priorities for Economic Recovery spending because it is major road that is crucial to the state's economy. Regarding Route 25, state and federal revenue continues to drop overall because of declining sales of motor fuels, and MaineDOT is falling behind in its effort to keep pace with maintenance and improvement needs in the state's transportation system. Because of this, there are no short-term plans to repair Route 25, but an improvement of one mile from Parsonsfield to Cornish is under consideration in the Six Year Plan.
James Rhodes, Town Manager	Clinton	2/25/09	Submitted to Governor Baldacci a list of 55 possible stimulus projects in Clinton, totaling \$4,973,765.	MaineDOT is reviewing the submissions. However, the transportation portion of the Economic Recovery Act only covers federal-aid roads. Local roads and rural minor collectors do not qualify.
Nancy Perkins, Selectman	Cornish	3/10/09	Inquired as to whether federal funding is available to undertake a project on a local road that the Town otherwise would be unable to afford to undertake without some type of outside assistance.	The transportation portion of the Economic Recovery Act only covers roads eligible for federal funding. Local roads and rural minor collectors do not qualify.
David Wilder	Dennysville	2/15/09	Asked about plans to repair Route 1 between East Machias and Pembroke with stimulus money.	
Jack Clukey, Town Manager	Dover-Foxcroft	3/5/09	Inquired as to whether a bicycle-pedestrian path will be included as part of the reconstruction of Route 15.	Bicycle/pedestrian accommodations will be part of the highway improvement project planned for Route 15. However, there is no plan for a separate path.
Bernadette Albert	Eagle Lake	2/25/09	Wants Sly Brook Road in Eagle Lake resurfaced.	This road is classified as rural minor collector, which is not eligible for federal funding.
David Michaud	East Millinocket	3/4/09	Sent letter requesting that MaineDOT consider repairing Route 11 through Grindstone.	MaineDOT is considering two projects through its regular programs. The first is a road rehabilitation beginning at the intersection of Route 11/157 and proceed north for 4.6 miles. The second is a maintenance paving job for 12.32 miles from the Soldiertown line to the Route 11/138 intersection in Sherman.
Nathan Poore, Town Manager	Falmouth	2/26/09	Asked why two projects on Route 100 and Falmouth Road did not make the final list of projects for the economic stimulus package.	MaineDOT is not receiving enough funding through the stimulus package to meet all statewide needs. However, these projects will be considered as part of MaineDOT's regular programs.
Nathan Poore, Town Manager	Falmouth	3/9/09	The Town believes that the design of a replacement bridge over railroad (No. 2702) on Route 26/100 should account for future traffic growth due to business development. The planned two-lane structure may not be adequate. Requests consideration of a third lane to accommodate traffic growth from anticipated business development off of Exit 53.	
Anonymous	Freeport	2/25/09	Man who identified himself as a Freeport resident said the roads in Freeport are falling apart. Specifically, he referred to Route 136, Route 125, Upper Mast Landing Road, and Lower Mast Landing Road.	MaineDOT is not receiving enough funding through the stimulus package to meet all statewide needs. However, projects in Freeport are being considered as part of MaineDOT's regular programs.
Paul Gray	Gardiner Water District	3/4/09	Wondering if MaineDOT plans to move ahead with a reconstruction of the Gardiner end of Route 201 in Farmingdale.	Project did not make the final Economic Stimulus list, but will be considered for funding in 2010. MaineDOT will continue working on the design and right-of-way phases.
Joe McAllister	Gray	2/27/09	Asked several questions about the contract to repair I-295 from Topsham to Gardiner, which was awarded to Pike Industries.	I-295 northbound was one of MaineDOT's top priorities for Economic Recovery spending because it is crucial to the state's economy. The contract was awarded to Pike Industries Inc., which was the lowest of two bidders for the project at \$31,469,000. MaineDOT observes a low-bid policy. MaineDOT estimates that the project will result in employment for more than 800 people, most of them from Maine.

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Tony Barrett	Harpowell	3/8/09	Urged MaineDOT to use the Transportation Enhance portion of the Economic Recovery package to support bicycle-pedestrian projects.	
Tom Frost	Hermon	2/26/09	Called to urge MaineDOT to fix Route 2 outside of Bangor. He said the project has been promised for the last 10 years.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement as part of its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would begin at Annis Road and proceed easterly 4.89 miles to the Bangor city line. The schedule would depend on available funding.
Amanda Woodbury	Hollis Center	3/11/09	I would like to see the employees at Kittery rest area keep their jobs. They provide useful services for Maine tourism.	
Mike Claus	Kennebunk	2/25/09	There should be funding of local road improvements through additional funding of the Urban Rural Initiative Program .	The Economic Recovery package does not include funding for local roads.
Phil Poirier	Livermore Falls Betterment Group	2/20/09	Asked about the status of a project on Route 4 in Livermore Falls/Jay.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement in its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would rebuild Route 4 starting at Bridge Street and extending northerly 1.1 miles to Pineau Street. The schedule would depend on available state and federal funding.
Town of Maxfield	Maxfield	2/25/09	It seems that a majority of the selected improvements are in southern Maine. Is northern Maine being forgotten again?	
Rep. Cheryl Briggs	Mexico	2/23/09	Expressed support for the an overlook and parking area at the Height of Land on Route 17 in Letter D Township.	The project is under consideration as part of MaineDOT's Six Year Plan and two-year Work Plan.
Maynard Webster	New Sharon	3/4/09	Asked if the stimulus package included help for municipal projects. New Sharon is looking for help to replace the New Mills Bridge, a minor span on a town way, for which the town is responsible.	The transportation portion of the stimulus package only covers facilities eligible for federal funding. This bridge does not qualify.
David Holt, Town Manager	Norway		Called MaineDOT Region 3 to ask why a mill and fill on Route 26 did not make the final list of projects for the stimulus list.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement on Route 26 as part of its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would begin 0.10 mile east of the Norway/Oxford town line and extend westerly 0.9 mile to Grove Street. The schedule would depend on the availability of state and federal funding.
Barry Barriman	Orrington	2/25/09	Would like to see Snow's Corner Road in Orrington rebuilt, from Route 15 to Dow Road. Also, Brewer Lake Road needs to be reclaimed.	Work on Snow's Corner Road is being considered as part of MaineDOT's Six Year Plan.
Edward and Eva Colson	Penobscot	3/9/09	Sent a letter expressing concern about the condition of Route 175 in Penobscot, from Northern Bay Market to the Town Landing Road.	
James Gooch	Portland	3/5/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Jamie Hinchliff	Portland	3/5/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Alex Landry, Bayside Neighborhood Association	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Alice Spencer, Portland Trails	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Andrew Abrams	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Belinda Ray, East Bayside Neighborhood Organization	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Bruce Hyman	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Christian McNeil	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Emma Holder	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Julie Poitras Santos, Bayside Neighborhood Association	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Kiya Smith	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Lisa Carroll	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	

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Nan Cumming, Portland Trails	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Rob Whitten, Portland Trails	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Robert Hark, East Bayside Neighborhood Organization	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Susan McCloskey, Bayside Neighborhood Association	Portland	3/6/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Cotton Barrett Estes	Portland	3/8/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Markos Miller	Portland	3/8/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Ward Willis	Portland	3/8/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Susan W. McClain, Portland Trails	Portland	3/8/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Anne Pringle, President, Friends of Deering Oaks	Portland	3/9/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Laura Newman	Portland	3/10/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Ron Spinella	Portland	3/10/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Anonymous ("Isabel")	Portland	3/11/09	Supports using Economic Recovery funding to build the planned 1.2-mile Bayside Trail in Portland.	
Rebecca Kurtz, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust	Rangeley	2/26/09	Disappointed that the Height of Land Scenic Byways project wasn't chosen.	The project will be considered for inclusion in MaineDOT's regular capital improvement programs.
Leo Menard	Saco	2/26/09	He is disappointed that a project on Route 109 in Wells was not included in the economic stimulus package.	
Bob Hamblen	Saco	3/5/09	Alternative modes of transportation such as mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian deserve 100% support from the MaineDOT. In particular, the Eastern Trail through Cumberland and York counties ought to be considered for Economic Recovery funding.	
John Andrews	Saco	3/5/09	He urged MaineDOT to include funding for the Eastern Trail project in Cumberland and York counties in the economic stimulus package.	
Gordon Paul	Sanford	3/10/09	I have reviewed the proposed list of projects and am disappointed and can't seem to understand why one of the largest growing counties in the State of Maine, York County, and specifically Sanford and Springvale, is not included in any projects.	
John Doucette	Skowhegan	2/25/09	Where is Skowhegan 201 (Madison Ave) on this list? Where is the Rt. 2 small bridge that is on the Kennebec which is falling into the river.	
Mia Purcell, Community Concepts	South Paris	2/25/09	Called to express disappointment about the small number of Oxford County projects on the list.	MaineDOT is considering more than 30 projects in Oxford County as part of its Six Year Plan.
Tex Haeuser	South Portland	2/27/09	Asked about the scope of the Long Creek Watershed mitigation project in South Portland.	
Rhonda Stark, Town Manager	St. Albans	2/25/09	Will there be money available for bridge reconstruction for towns other than those named under the Maine DOT's Recovery Plan Project?	The Economic Recovery package does not include funding for local roads or bridges.
Bill Jones, Selectman	Sweden	2/27/09	Sought financial help to resurface two town roads.	The Economic Recovery package does not include funding for local roads or bridges.
Conrad LeBourdais	Topsham	2/25/09	Called to ask why Route 196 in Lisbon isn't on the stimulus list. "Put some money into Route 196."	
Mark Winer	Union	2/25/09	Requested consideration of rebuilding a sidewalk from the Town Hall to the Common, and extending the sidewalk to a municipal park.	The Town was invited to seek funding for the projects under MaineDOT's regular bicycle-pedestrian programs.
Dan French	Unity	2/25/09	Called to ask why Route 139 in Fairfield/Benton is not on the economic stimulus list.	Neck Road project is in the 2008-2009 program, but needs \$1 million more. Will be considered for supplemental funding in the 2010-2011 program.

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Diane Johnson	Waterville	3/8/09	Can MaineDOT require Pike Industries and Cianbro Corp. to hire only Maine residents for the I-295 project paid for with economic stimulus funds?	It would not be legal for MaineDOT to require that contractors employ only Maine residents. Generally speaking, however, we find that most of the workers on our contracted projects are from Maine.
Eric Dudley, City of Westbrook	Westbrook	2/25/09	Has concerns with the equity of distribution of the funds. Under the Highway Reconstruction portion of the funding, \$18 million is proposed to be spent in the Lewiston/Auburn area. Conspicuously absent from the list are major reconstruction projects in the Portland and Bangor areas.	A project on Eisenhower Drive in Westbrook has been chosen to receive federal stimulus funding, saving the City nearly \$150,000 in match costs. There were too many statewide needs and not enough money to fund all requested projects through the stimulus package.
Steven Lane, Superintendent of Winterport Water District	Winterport	3/3/09	Asked about the status of a deferred reconstruction project on Route 1A, which did not appear in the stimulus package.	
Mary Ellen Barnes, Coastal Enterprises, Inc.	Wiscasset	3/9/09	I had read that there would be some funds for small shipyards, \$100 million nationally. Do you know if this is a competitive program or if there is an allocation coming to Maine?	MaineDOT emailed guidance in the Federal Register for small shipyard grants in stimulus bill. Period for submitting grants started on 2/17/09 and ends 4/20/09.
Judy Arbia-Colgan		2/25/09	Other than the removal of the Waldo county bridge, it seems the state is forgetting there is more state north of Portland than south. US Rt. 2 in Hermon for 2+ miles before it goes into Bangor is atrocious.	MaineDOT is considering a highway improvement as part of its 2010-2011 work plan. The project would begin at Annis Road and proceed easterly 4.89 miles to the Bangor city line. The schedule would depend on available funding.
Suzanne Roy		2/28/09	Voiced concern about spending economic stimulus money to keep I-295 between Topsham and Gardiner in good shape for tourist traffic. Believes the stimulus funding should instead be used to provide transportation options other than the Maine Turnpike, a toll highway, for Lewiston-Auburn residents.	I-295 northbound was one of MaineDOT's top priorities for Economic Recovery spending because it is crucial to the state's economy. MaineDOT – which has a low-bid policy – awarded the project to Pike Industries Inc., which was the lowest of two bidders at \$31,469,000. MaineDOT estimates that the project will result in employment for more than 800 people, most of them from Maine. Toll rates on the Maine Turnpike are set by the Maine Turnpike Authority, a separate agency from MaineDOT.
Anonymous		2/25/09	More of the projects should include highway reconstruction, a long-term fix.	Though \$130.7 million for highways is a substantial sum coming at critical time, it is not enough to meet all statewide needs. A substantial paving component was included to spread the benefits to as many communities as possible.
Anonymous, "Richard"		2/27/09	Expressed outrage at the amount of money being spent to repair on I-295 from Topsham to Gardiner, at the expense of projects in other parts of Maine.	I-295 northbound was one of MaineDOT's top priorities for Economic Recovery spending because it is crucial to the state's economy. MaineDOT – which has a low-bid policy – awarded the project to Pike Industries Inc., which was the lowest of two bidders at \$31,469,000. MaineDOT estimates that the project will result in employment for more than 800 people, most of them from Maine.
Anonymous		3/4/09	What about Route 15 on Deer Isle? It's in dreadful shape from the bridge to Stonington.	A highway improvement on Route 15 is being considered as part of MaineDOT's Six Year Plan. The proposed project is a recycled-asphalt rehabilitation project for 9.76 miles, from School Street northerly to Harty Hill Road. The schedule will depend upon available funding.