

Four Year Bridge Investment Plan
Including \$160 million from “An Act to Keep Bridges Safe”
April 2008

The Governor's bill, "An Act to Keep Bridges Safe", provides \$160 million (\$40 million per year) to supplement currently anticipated bridge funding of approximately \$280 million (\$70 million per year), to create a \$440 million, four year bridge investment plan. This represents a bold step toward addressing the bridge funding recommendations contained in the November 2007 report to Governor Baldacci entitled “Keeping Our Bridges Safe” (the Bridge Report) , as well as the goals in 2007 P.L. Chapter 470 “An Act to Secure Maine’s Transportation Future”, both of which have been incorporated into “Connecting Maine”, MaineDOT’s long-range transportation plan. This bill also advances Maine-based technologies such as composites, which are gaining market share in bridge construction due to their corrosion-resistance.

This plan will fund 246 badly-needed capital bridge improvements in every corner of Maine. An alphabetical list by town and a map are attached. The Plan is focused on Poor bridges; almost 2/3 is on MaineDOT’s current Bridge Watch List that was prepared in conjunction with the Bridge Report. This Bridge Report and Watch List are available at www.Mainedot.gov. The plan also provides funding that will protect the taxpayer's investment by preventing many Good and Fair bridges from falling into Poor condition, as recommended by the Bridge Report. This list is necessarily flexible, as it is based on current bridge conditions and data, and could change as a result of future bridge inspections, load ratings, or other transportation system developments.

Highlights of this proposed Bridge Investment Plan include the following.

| | <u>Number</u> |
|---|---------------|
| • Bridge Replacements | 80 |
| • Bridge Improvements Not Yet Scoped | 59 |
| • Bridge Rehabilitations | 10 |
| • Bridge Removals | 6 |
| • Minor Spans | 27 |
| • Bridge Preservation | <u>64</u> |
| Total: | 246 |

Without passage of this bill or some other funding initiative, about 36% of the projects in this Plan will need to be cut, and the only way to protect public safety will be more bridge load postings and closures. Such actions can cripple a local economy.