

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

—  
H.P. 384 - L.D. 607

**Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine Improving  
Highway Connections from Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley**

**Sec. 1. Convene stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall convene and staff an advisory stakeholder group, referred to in this resolve as "the stakeholder group," to assist the department in identifying and developing strategies to address highway mobility and transportation needs in northern Maine. Meetings of the stakeholder group must take place in Aroostook County or a location that best suits the majority of the stakeholder group members.

**Sec. 2. Stakeholder group membership. Resolved:** That the stakeholder group consists of the following 11 members appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation:

1. A representative of the Northern Maine Development Commission;
2. A representative of a statewide transportation association;
3. Three municipal managers working in Aroostook County;
4. A representative of a trade association representing businesses located in northern Maine;
5. A representative of a trucking association representing companies or interests in northern Maine;
6. A representative from the Aroostook Partnership; and
7. Three representatives of trucking companies based in Aroostook County.

**Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the stakeholder group shall perform the following duties:

1. Determine to what extent the recommendations of the Aroostook County Transportation Study conducted by the Department of Transportation have been or will be implemented;
2. Review previous studies analyzing the feasibility of connecting Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley and Aroostook County with a new 90-mile divided highway or with improvements to existing highways;

3. Review the conceptual benefits, costs, permitting process and feasible funding sources of a highway connecting Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley and unorganized territory of Central Aroostook;

4. Review current and future highway improvement plans that include Aroostook County;

5. Recommend highway improvements that will substantially improve safety, mobility and economic opportunity in northern Maine; and

6. Identify the economic benefits, social benefits and cost of improved integration between highway systems in Canada and Maine.

**Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 31, 2023, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report that includes the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may report out legislation based on the recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.