



April 27, 2023

Ref: LD 367 Letter of Support

Senator Peggy Rotundo  
Representative Melanie Sachs  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee  
Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 367 - An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation

Dear Committee Chairs,

This letter is being provided to express my support of LD367 - An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation.

As you are hopefully aware, MaineDOT has a huge unmet need in their capital projects program, including matching dollars for federal grants. In recent testimony, the Commissioner of Transportation identified the unmet need at \$265 million per year (to match anticipated grants). At this point, the Department counts on either General Fund bonds or General Fund appropriations or both – every year – to fund their state capital account, which provides matching funds for federal dollars. One of my concerns is that MaineDOT has already implemented many cost-cutting measures, including re-classifying hundreds of miles of roads, so that many will only get Light Capital Paving once every seven years. As a result, this reclassification then precludes them from completing some much-needed safety projects in various parts of the state.

In 2020, the [Blue Ribbon Commission To Continue Studying and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems](#), pegged the unmet need at \$330 million per year, and since then costs have increased in Maine and in every state in the country. A Transportation Bond would help the state to Improve Public Safety, Support the State's Economy and Mobility, and maximize Federal Funds through discretionary grants and other funding options.

Below are several additional points to consider related to this bond issue:

- People in Maine support transportation. Let the voters decide.
- Local match programs administered by MaineDOT include Municipal Partnership, Business Partnership, and Village Partnerships. Bond funds could be used for those programs which are extremely popular with municipalities and businesses.

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- Our firm does work all across this great state, and we see firsthand the need for improvements and the resulting increased costs required once a roadway shifts from a maintenance need to reconstruction.
- I am also a member of the South Portland Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee, and we constantly hear about rising costs which prevent much-needed improvements from moving forward.

I am hopeful that you will support LD 367 and move it forward for passage. Should you or any of the committee members have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Grande".

Tony Grande, P.E.  
Director of Transportation Engineering - Maine  
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