

Testimony of Janet Robinson
In Support of LD 1292: An Act Clarifying the Contributions of the MTA to the State Highway Fund

April 8, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Janet Robinson, and I live in Scarborough and frequently drive on Rt 114 to Gorham and back. I am thus aware of the traffic issues on this road. Nonetheless, I urge you to reallocate funds for the ill-conceived Gorham Connector by supporting LD 1292.

I support LD 1292 because

- In the current era of slashed federal funding and almost certain economic downturn, the \$330 million (at least) that the Gorham Connector costs will be needed by the DOT for our existing infrastructure.
- We already have a budget deficit at the state level and with the DOT, and deferring this funding to more important projects will help keep down taxes on Maine residents. LD1292 will shift some cost to out-of-staters.
- MTA has a poor track record of decision-making, both on this project and others. I use Exit 45 almost daily, and their two-year project there replaced a smoothly-running cloverleaf with an exchange that has a sharp turn on the northbound ramp (I've seen one rollover there already) and a traffic signal on the off-ramp southbound. The Route 112 exit, now being reconstructed, is another example, as is the West Falmouth project. We have greater needs elsewhere.
- More highways like the Gorham connector do not solve traffic problems; they increase them by promoting sprawl. We have 50 years of experience with what happens when big highways are built into rural areas. See Transportation for America report, [the Congestion Con](#).
- This bill does not impede operations or maintenance in any way - the Maine Turnpike will remain in the same condition.
- The bill will give the legislature more authority over funding priorities for Maine's transportation revenues.
- MTA will argue that the tolls should only be used to maintain the Turnpike out of fairness to its payers. If this were true, why has the MTA been charging toll payers about \$40 million per year more than it needs to cover its costs? Plus, anyone who uses the Maine Turnpike also uses the roads that feed into it, by definition.

I urge you to support LD 1292. Thank you

Janet Robinson
Scarborough
Jrobinson3225@gmail.com

