

LD 287 - OTP
An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected
Transportation Construction Projects
1.7.2026

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Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Housing & Economic Development Committee:

My name is Paul Drinan and I am a resident of Westbrook. I strongly support this proposed legislation to establish a transparent project selection process for all new transportation projects funded by the Maine DOT and the Maine Turnpike Authority. By establishing a transparent rubric to score new transportation projects and prioritizing investments accordingly, this bill will ensure that taxpayer dollars are put to the best possible use and take the politics out of transportation investments.

As an active transportation professional, I can attest first-hand to the value of these investments. Unlike investing in auto-centric infrastructure, active transportation investments typically yield a \$3 to \$1 return and in some cases 7 to 1 totaling up to \$138.5 billion in annual economic benefits in the U.S. While major roads and highways serve an undeniable service to society, they simply do not provide the same return on investment to the taxpayer.

These benefits include: safe travel, a vibrant economy, connectivity, an environmentally sustainable transportation system, equitable access, and a healthier Maine - which also translates to a healthier economy.

By ensuring that major transportation spending decisions are made objectively and transparently, we also support a healthy democratic process and build much needed trust in our political system.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you consider voting Ought To Pass on LD 287.

Thank you for your time and service,

Paul Drinan
Director, Vision Zero Maine