

Senator Chipman, Representative Crafts, distinguished members of the committee, my name is Erin Courtney and I am the public outreach manager and legislative liaison for Maine Turnpike Authority. I am here on behalf of our agency to testify in support of LD 2190.

Normally, Executive Director Mills would be the presenting on this but he was unable to be here today. So instead you get me, and with me are members of our finance team, Chief Operations Officer John Sirois, Director of Finance Matt Elliott and Financial Analyst Tyler Laverriere.

I'd like to just start with a high-level overview and for the benefit of those watching in zoom land, point out the difference between how Maine Turnpike Authority and Maine DOT are funded. MTA does not receive any federal or state tax dollars. So as a committee, you do not need to appropriate funding from state coffers. MTA's primary source of funding is revenue generated from tolls.

In 2023, MTA generated \$182 million in revenue and had 91.7 M toll transactions, which broke the previous transaction record from 2019 of 90.2 M transactions.

This operating budget, referred to as the "Revenue Fund Budget" in the bill text totals \$56.6 million, including a 10% contingency. This portion of the budget is about 31% of the total Turnpike revenue projected for calendar year 2025. It includes the salaries of MTA employees that makes up 70% of the budget, funding for State Police Troop G that is dedicated to patrolling the Turnpike, which accounts for 15% and the remaining 15% is for consumables such as utilities, fuel and salt among other things. The total budget is \$3.14 million higher, a 6.5% increase over the FY 2024 budget that you approved during the first session. The largest increase in the 2025 budget is from Salaries and Benefits.

The remaining funds, starting on page 2 and continued on page 3 are raised for capital projects, debt service and other expenses that must be accounted for outside of the operating budget by requirements of the bond resolution.

With that, we do have the budget binder before you and we are happy to go through any of it that you like, or if you prefer to review on your own, and discuss in further detail at the work session, I'd be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.