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In Support of LD 1020, An Act Repealing the Laws for the Gorham Connector

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Paul Drinan, I live in Westbrook, and I am the founder and director of Vision Zero Maine. We work with Maine communities to advocate for active transportation policy and safe streets for all.

The proposed highway expansion in Gorham is a classic case of induced demand and won't solve the traffic congestion problem. Induced demand is a term that stems from economics and it means that when you create more of a product, more people will consume that product. In this case, the product is a road. If the problem is cars, enabling more car *traffic* will not solve the problem. While traffic congestion may prove to be inconvenient for the affected communities, we believe that highway expansions create more lasting harm and are a terrible financial investment.

According to the Maine Sensible Transportation Policy Act, Title 23 section 73, subsection 3:

**“It is the policy of the State that transportation planning decisions, capital investment decisions and project decisions must:**

- A. Minimize the harmful effects of transportation on public health and on air and water quality, land use and other natural resources; [RR 1991, c. 2, §88 (COR).]**
- i. B. Require that the full range of reasonable transportation alternatives be evaluated for all significant highway construction or reconstruction projects and give preference to transportation system management options, demand management strategies, improvements to the existing system, and other transportation modes before increasing highway capacity through road building activities;”**

Highway expansions are historically harmful to the surrounding communities, the environment, and do not solve the problem of traffic congestion. If anything, these projects have been shown to exacerbate the problem and yield undesirable outcomes such as sprawl, pollution, poor health, financial burdens, and divided communities.

In light of this, I respectfully request that you vote **Ought To Pass on LD 1020**

Thank you.

Paul Drinan