



April 8, 2025

Testimony of Andre Briere, Maine Turnpike Authority  
Before the 132nd Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

**In Support of LD 821**

**An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026**

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Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, distinguished members of the committee, my name is Andre Briere and I am the executive director for Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA). I am here on behalf of our agency to testify in support of LD 821.

The legislative review of our budget is different than the process for allocating funds to the MaineDOT Highway Fund budget. MTA does not receive any federal or state tax dollars. So as a committee, you do not need to appropriate funding from state coffers. Rather, your job is to review and approve the funds we have allocated from our revenue for the maintenance and operations of the Maine Turnpike.

MTA's primary source of funding is revenue generated from tolls. In 2024, MTA generated \$188 million in toll revenue and had 95.9 M toll transactions, which broke the previous transaction record from 2023 of 91.7 M transactions.

This operating budget, referred to as the "Revenue Fund Budget" in the bill text totals \$58.4 million, including a 5% contingency. This portion of the budget is about 31% of the total Turnpike revenue projected for calendar year 2026. It includes the salaries of MTA employees that makes up 71% 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 \$4.64 million higher, a 9% increase over the FY 2025 budget that you approved for 2025. The largest increase in the 2026 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, you have the budget binder, which we can discuss now, or at the work session. At this time, I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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