



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note  
COMMISSIONER

**April 25, 2025**

**Testimony of Will Gayle  
Maine Department of Transportation  
Before the 132<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on House and Economic  
Development**

**Neither For Nor Against**

LD 1385

*An Act to Consider Municipalities Meeting Regional Housing Goals in Awarding Transportation Grants*

---

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Will Gayle, and I serve as the Director of Public Outreach in the Bureau of Planning at the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). While MaineDOT does not take a formal position for or against LD 1385, we would like to express concerns regarding potential unintended consequences of the bill as currently drafted.

LD 1385 proposes that MaineDOT take into account a municipality's past actions and future plans for meeting regional housing production goals when evaluating applications for discretionary grant funding. These housing goals are established under 5 MRSA §13056, sub-§9, which tasks the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) with setting statewide housing production objectives to increase the availability and affordability of diverse housing types in Maine.

Housing policy, however, is outside MaineDOT's area of expertise. We do not have access to municipalities' past actions or future plans related to housing, nor do we have the capacity to assess compliance with these regional housing production goals. These responsibilities more appropriately fall under agencies with housing-specific missions, such as DECD.

MaineDOT's discretionary grant programs are structured to support competitive applications across the state for projects that will most benefit Maine's transportation network. These projects may aim to improve safety, stimulate economic development, enhance active transportation options, or replace aging infrastructure. Adding additional criteria tied to housing goals could inadvertently discourage municipalities from applying for discretionary funding or delay

important projects that are critical to maintaining a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation system.

If the committee chooses to advance LD 1385, MaineDOT respectfully requests consideration of potential revisions to the bill language. We would be happy to share suggested changes with your committee analyst ahead of the work session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.