



February 3, 2026

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

In Support of LD 2152

**An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority
for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2027**

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, distinguished members of the committee, my name is Andre Briere and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA). I am here on behalf of our agency to testify in support of LD 2152.

As you know, 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 role 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 2025, MTA generated \$185 million in gross toll revenue and had 96.1 M toll transactions, which broke the previous transaction record from 2024 of 95.9 M transactions. The MTA also gave back to Maine E-ZPass account holders \$7.7 million in volume-based discounts.

This operating budget, referred to as the "Revenue Fund Budget" in the bill text totals \$63.9 million, including a 10% contingency. This portion of the budget is about 33% of the total Turnpike revenue projected for calendar year 2027. It includes the salaries and benefits 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. Excluding the contingency, the total budget is \$1.99 million higher, a 3.55% increase over the FY 2026 budget that you approved last year. The largest increase in the 2027 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 our debt obligation.

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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