



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

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February 25, 2021

Testimony of Meghan Russo  
Maine Department of Transportation  
Before the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

**In Opposition**

**LD 410**

*An Act To Provide for Reconstruction of Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou*

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Senator Diamond, Representative Martin, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, my name is Meghan Russo, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Maine Department of Transportation. I am before you today in opposition to LD 410, *An Act To Provide for Reconstruction of Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou*.

LD 410 proposes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$40,000,000 to MaineDOT for the purpose of reconstructing Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou. By way of background, this section of Route 161 is a Highway Corridor Priority 2 roadway with an annual average daily traffic count of between 1,100 and 3,100 vehicles. This segment of Route 161 is currently on a four-to-five-year rotation for Light Capital Paving (LCP) and is scheduled for LCP this summer.

While we appreciate the bill sponsor's creative funding solutions, as well as the General Fund's continued support by covering the debt service of past transportation bonds, LD 410 directly circumvents MaineDOT's Work Plan process. Therefore, we respectfully oppose the legislation, as we do all bills that attempt to add projects to our Work Plan.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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