

Zachary Barowitz  
Portland  
LD 1020

Testimony of Zack Barowitz  
In Support of LD 1020

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Zack Barowitz, I live in Portland right off of exit 5/I-295.

I support LD 1020 because:

1. It will save money for the State of Maine that would better be spent on rural economic development, schools, and healthcare.
2. The Gorham Connect won't solve anything. None of the studies looked at the effect on Portland, but common sense tells us that when you funnel traffic onto I-295, you'll be funneling traffic off at the four Portland exits. One might suppose that this is Portland's problem but really it's the commuters problem at the last mile by creating logjams at the already burdened exits (especially exit 8).
3. The advantages of wider roads is based on faulty research. Long ago, traffic engineers followed the practice of structural engineers who design beams to carry triple their design loads. This is well and good for a bridge or a building but it simply doesn't work for road design because it makes roads more dangerous, more costly to maintain, and sucks up land that could otherwise be put to more productive use.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Zack Barowitz