

Pamela Lanz
Gorham
LD 1292

I would like to voice my support of LD 1292 to codify the MTA's contributions to the Highway Fund with regard to the sensible Transportation Policy Act. I'm a resident of Gorham, Maine and have opposed the building of of the 5mile Gorham Connector because it's an outdated, expensive solution to traffic congestion in and around Gorham and surrounding towns. Building a connector may temporarily reduce traffic at rush hours but will not decrease traffic congestion in the long run. People will rationalize that they're saving 5-15 minutes on their commute and build further out from town centers, adding more congestion. New housing should be targeted for town centers where services are more readily available. Also, with Climate Change here in Maine now, we need to be investing in alternatives to mainly getting around Greater Portland by car, including public transportation like buses and trains, more ride share options, bike lanes and in some cases, widening or re-configuring roads. Also, I believe that in the longer run, the MTA should folded into of the Highway Dept. rather than be a separate and currently in debt agency. Finally, the connector would cut through our beloved Smiling Hill Farm which has been a working farm for many, many generations and is a wonderful and often visited open farm space for people of all ages and with rare brook trout in nearby streams for local fishers. Let's keep at least some of southern Maine as the place where we continue to value our rural places, cozy towns and natural resources. Isn't that what brought many of us to or back to Maine in the first place?