

**STRATEGY E****provide supporting infrastructure**

To attract talent to move into the state — and to retain the talent we have — Maine needs a supporting infrastructure that ensures a quality of life. Broadband and schools, mentioned earlier, are pieces of the puzzle. Childcare, housing and transportation are also part of the picture. Because these functions are largely independent of the economic development system, other entities must be responsible for achieving goals in these areas, and those entities are identified on the following pages.

**ACTION E2:**

Establish an adequate and sustainable funding system for public transportation.

Maine spends 86 cents per person annually for public transportation. That is 37th among all states, and is below every other state in New England. Part of the problem is that Maine's overall transportation funding system is broken, and does not bring in adequate revenues to fund highway improvements or any other major function of the Maine Department of Transportation.

The Legislature has established a *Blue Ribbon Commission to Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems*. Increasing public transportation funding to a sustainable level should be part of its recommendations.

The blue-ribbon commission is deadlocked, the **annual shortfall is \$232 million** and the ten-year plan admits that the “funding system is broken, and **does not bring in adequate funding to fund highway improvements or any other major function of the Maine DOT.**” YET—the DOT has **decided to keep going ahead with the \$79.25 million I-395/Route 9 Connector!!**

“Part of the problem is that Maine's overall transportation funding system is broken, and **does not bring in adequate revenues to fund highway improvements or any other major function of the Maine Department of Transportation.**”

For example, a commission that aimed to find more money for the state's embattled transportation system has [deadlocked so far on raising the gas tax](#). Solving that problem—given **an estimated \$232 million shortfall for road and bridge maintenance**—is also identified as a goal in Mills' economic plan.