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Subject: I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study

No major changes in development since the last report. MaineDOT continues to assemble the additional information requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services related to the Biological Assessment (BA) that was previously submitted.

It should be noted that this additional work effort is "in the queue" for the staff in our Office of Environment, one of many projects they are working on.

There was a lot of information included in a recent news article, some of which may be miss-leading..

It is important to note that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) contains the information pertaining to the project and is the current document of record. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires and defines a **process** by which MaineDOT and FHWA evaluates proposed projects. As such, individual documents may not be the current correct information and represents a snapshot of that point in time. The purpose of NEPA and the NEPA document (in this case, an EIS) is not to document the decision, but to be the decision-making document. Comments received on the DEIS will be incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Any comments on the DEIS that were determined to be substantive require a response which will be included in the FEIS.

To be clear, the proposed Right of Way for the project corridor is 200 feet (minimum). The design standard used for the evaluation of the 79+ alternatives considered in the process is the "Freeway" design standard as documented in the DEIS and continues to be the standard for environmental processing. There are multiple "standards" available dependent on the functional classification of the highway segment you propose to build. For example, the interstate(Freeway) system has six to one in-slopes compared to four to one slopes for non-freeway arterials. If a build alternative is constructed it will be designed and built to national standards to the proposed design speed and classification for the highway.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Russell Charette – Project Manager

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