

The Presque Isle Bypass, a must read BDN article

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12/9/2015 11:33 AM

To: Brewer City Council; Brewer City Manager; Councilor Jerry W. Goss; Councilor Joseph Ferris; Councilor Matthew Vachon; Deputy Mayor Kevin O'Connell; Mayor Beverly Uhlenhake;

Another waste of our limited transportation dollars just like the Caribou Bypass, constructed a few years back, and the future North Brewer Bypass (2B-2) that has recently been approved for amendment into the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Plan).

<http://bangordailynews.com/2015/12/09/news/aroostook/controversial-presque-isle-bypass-in-sight/>

We keep hearing the cries from our DOT folks that they don't have the money to even maintain our existing roads and bridges with a current work plan that has an **annual \$119 million shortfall** that includes an **annual \$70 million in unmet bridge needs**.

33% of our state's bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

38% of our roads are rated as "fair" or "unacceptable".

And once again - here's a prime example that the MaineDOT is unable or lacks the courage to prioritize our real transportation needs.

How do we as a state, stop this bypass mentality and continued waste our transportation dollars??

Cost of the complete Presque Isle Bypass = \$120 million; projected cost of 2B-2 is \$61 million (and don't forget that **2B-2 does not meet the original Study Purpose and Needs**) for a total of \$181 million on just two projects.

That \$181 million is more than 2.5 years of unmet bridge needs!! How much more simple could it be?

Wouldn't it make more sense to immediately halt both the Presque Isle Bypass and the I-395/Route 9 Connector projects and re-appropriate all existing and future funds to the real unmet transportation needs of our state?

It's about time that our Governor, the DOT Management, the JSC on Transportation and our State Legislature get ahold of this issue and get the DOT back on a budget to fix the current problems instead of constructing some politician's pet project. If these projects are just an attempt to throw money at us folks living in the other state of Maine – just think of how many potholes you dodged this morning on your city streets and stop to wonder what's happening to your vehicle when you get caught in those bumps, ruts and open cracks on I-395 every day – put that \$181 million into the roads and bridges we drive every day in the "other state of Maine" and we would all be happier!!

To review the condition of our state's infrastructure – [click here](#).

If this is the best this state can do – they should all be ashamed...