

# MaineDOT Competitive Transportation Programs

**Please complete and mail to your Regional Council no later than March 17, 2008**

RC Name:

RC Contact Name:

RC Street:

RC Town, State, ZIP

RC Phone:

RC E-Mail:

MaineDOT administers several transportation programs on a competitive basis, for which applications are evaluated using criteria that are specific to each program. Recently, Public Law Chapter 208 was enacted to encourage sound transportation planning by gearing the selection of quality community programs to those communities that have adopted best practices to preserve the life of the transportation system<sup>1</sup>. The programs summarized below are those that are affected by the legislation and are funded based on a competitive rating system. If you indicate that your municipality would be interested in participating in any of the following programs you will be contacted and information regarding each program, including how to apply will be explained.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting [www.mainedot.gov](http://www.mainedot.gov), or by contacting Bill Croce at MaineDOT, [bill.croce@maine.gov](mailto:bill.croce@maine.gov) or phone 624-3282.

*Please note that many of the Competitive Transportation Program project candidates will require a local funding match.*

## Transportation Enhancement Program

The Transportation Enhancement Program is a federal reimbursement program offering a funding opportunity to help communities expand their transportation and livability choices. MaineDOT's program principally supports enhancements in connection with *Explore Maine*, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, environmental mitigation, and downtown revitalization initiatives. Enhancement funds occasionally support other investments that create a more enhanced transportation system, focused on the community. Project proposals must show a relationship to surface transportation, while protecting the environment.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

## Community Livability Transportation Studies

This State-funded program provides financial assistance to communities that are conducting transportation/community development planning studies that will support future investments in community livability. This program supports investments in Maine's downtowns, villages, and service centers, where mixed uses exist or are planned. These planning studies identify safety and mobility improvements as well as pedestrian bicycle and transit projects. Mixed use areas provide individuals with the ability to accomplish multiple tasks with fewer vehicle trips, resulting in less highway congestion and safety degradation, fewer contributions to greenhouse gases, and improved air-quality protection.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

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<sup>1</sup> Legislation called for rule making which will occur in the spring related to the ongoing Sensible Transportation policy Act rule amendments

### **Community Investment Sharing**

This State-funded program provides financial assistance for implementation of streetscape amenities to scheduled highway improvement projects in urban and village settings, by cost sharing with communities. Such amenities should reflect community values and goals, and may include traffic, safety, or gateway improvements, way-finding signage, streetscapes, park-and-ride facilities, transit stops/stations, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements.

**YES – Our Municipality may want to participate in this program**

### **Community Gateways**

The State-funded Community Gateways Program provides funding and technical assistance to Maine communities for locally initiated transportation related projects. Examples include development of landscape architecture in the transportation corridor, gateway signage as well as city, town and village streetscaping. Strong preference is given to projects that also include positive consideration of a communities natural and cultural resources .

**YES – Our Municipality may want to participate in this program**

### **Safe Routes to Schools**

Safe Routes to School is a federal, state, and local effort to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school. Major goals of the program include increasing bicycle, pedestrian, and traffic safety, and making walking and bicycling to school more appealing. MaineDOT looks for projects that substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle within two miles of an elementary or middle school.

**YES – Our Municipality may want to participate in this program**

### **Surface Water Quality Protection Program**

The Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP) is a cooperative endeavor that joins local, state, and federal organizations in efforts to reduce the effects of storm water runoff from state highways and other MaineDOT transportation facilities into Maine water bodies. The SWQPP uses federal and state funds to assist in the engineering design and construction of innovative storm water management projects. The program relies on local citizens and community groups, to locate and nominate these problem areas.

**YES – Our Municipality may want to participate in this program**

### **Small Harbor Transportation Improvement Program**

The Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) promotes public access and economic development, to preserve infrastructure along the coast. SHIP also helps municipalities make improvements (to public wharves, landings, and boat ramps) that might otherwise not be possible due to their considerable costs. A local cash match of up to 50% of the total project is required.

**YES – Our Municipality may want to participate in this program**

### **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**

Every fiscal year, MaineDOT receives \$100,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for grants under the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program. The goal of the program is to support construction, renovation, or maintenance of tie-up facilities for transient, non-trailerable, recreational boats that are 26' and longer. Typically, this means transient floats, gangways and other marine facilities. A local 25% cash match is required.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

### **Industrial Rail Access Program**

The Industrial Rail Access Program is designed to encourage economic development and increased use of freight rail transportation. Most projects involve rail sidings, and rail construction and improvement. However, MaineDOT will entertain projects that enhance the use of freight rail transportation without involving actual track work, such as systems to transfer bulk materials between rail and other modes. Projects are rated in ten economic- and transportation-related categories.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

### **Scenic Byways Program**

MaineDOT seeks Federal funding for stand-alone transportation-related projects that are geared to quality of life and economic vitality improvements along designated Scenic Byways. Those federal funds are only available to the National Scenic Byways program through the congressional budget process. If Congress does not appropriate this funding in any given year, the program remains dormant.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

### **Rural Road Initiative**

This Program for State-Aid Minor Collector Improvements requires a local cost share of 33% of the total project costs. Funding for this program will likely be limited due to the large number of backlog projects. MaineDOT has not funded any new RRI projects in the past several years and will give priority to municipalities that not only expressed interested but raised resources for this program. If you indicated interest, MaineDOT will contact you to provide eligible highways in your municipality, scopes of work, scheduling, and prioritization of capital improvements to eligible State-Aid Minor Collectors.

**YES – Our Municipality *may* want to participate in this program**

### **Roads for Community Development**

Additional project candidate funding opportunities may exist by virtue of the following programs based on strategic regional and statewide needs and legislative funding possibilities.

#### **Corridor Preservation**

The goal of this State-funded program is to proactively purchase access rights along important mobility corridors to support planned growth along highways to preserve mobility and safety and thus avoid future investments in congestion alleviation projects.

#### **Financing New Road Construction**

If municipal officers of one or more municipalities determine it necessary that a public road be constructed to spur economic development, downtown revitalization or neighborhood preservation; to create new housing stock; to promote mixed-use or densely settled village centers; or to enhance public safety, then the municipal officers may petition the Department of Transportation to finance

from the Highway Fund up to 50% of the cost of the proposed road construction, subject to available funds.

**State Aid for Arterial and Major Collector Highway Capital Projects**

Municipalities may choose to participate in the arterial and major collector highway capital projects program created under this section. Participating municipalities shall have a department-approved transportation plan for state and state aid highways and comply with policies and procedures adopted by the Department of Transportation.