

MaineDOT's Quality of Place Investment Strategies

July 17, 2008

MaineDOT's Mission is to responsibly provide a safe, efficient and reliable transportation system that supports economic opportunity and quality of life

MaineDOT's Connecting Maine Goals:

- Ensure a Safe and Secure Transportation System
- Promote Economic Vitality and Competitiveness through Transportation Investments
- Develop and Implement Transportation Programs that Enhance Quality of Life
- Enhance Public Awareness and Participation
- Ensure Sustainability of Maine's Transportation Systems

In terms of *Quality of Place Report Recommendations*, MaineDOT has been linking its investments with Quality of Place objectives for some years:

1. **QOP Report Recommendation: Tourism (Hospitality Industry)**
 - a. **Scenic Byway program** – 13 byways and counting!
 - b. **Explorer Transit Networks** – Island, Coastal, Mountain
 - c. **Historic Preservation** – Regulatory and Enhancement – Historic Bridge Action Plan
 - d. **Bike Touring Guide**
 - e. **3 Trail Strategy**
 - f. **Cruise Ship Planning**
 - g. **MaineDOT Tourism Recommendations** - Recent report/recommendations for aligning missions with DECD
 - i. State Visitor Information Center Plan, Maine Rest Area Plan
 - ii. State Tourism Signage Policy
 - iii. Bringing Legislatively Created Tourism Information Advisory Committee together with Maine Tourism Commission for joint annual work plans
 - iv. Co-prioritization of Transportation Investments for Tourism
2. **QOP Report Recommendation: Good Design**
 - a. **Sensible Transportation Policy Act / "Piotti" Bill**– local land use / transportation planning integration and incentives for single or multiple communities who do so
 - b. **Context Sensitive Solutions** – Flexible Design standards – roadway designs that fit local surroundings while achieving connectivity purposes
 - c. **Enhanced Project Scoping** – pre-design red flag analyses on human, cultural and natural environments to better inform design parameters
 - d. **Aligning Laws/Rules:** Site Law with Traffic Movement Permit; recently completed STPA and Growth Management Act
 - e. **Historic Preservation** –
 - i. Regulatory: Federal National Historic Preservation Act and Highway Act; and state Site Law) and
 - ii. Enhancement: one of several (under-funded) federal categories supporting historic transportation facility investment
 - f. **Technical Assistance** through RPCs and Maine Local Roads Center
 - g. **Roadway Audits:** Safety Audits / Main Street Design audits – collaborative/interdisciplinary
 - h. **Gateway 1** – regional multimodal / land use corridor management plan
 - i. **Multi-agency endorsement of Wildlife – Waterway Crossing Policy**

3. **QOP Report Recommendation: Public Access**
 - a. **Access acquisition** – partnering opportunities with LMF and Land Trusts
 - b. **Recreational Access** at water crossings
 - c. **Transit Systems**

4. **QOP Report Recommendation: Community and Downtown Vitality**
 - a. Context Sensitive Solutions – Community Connections Initiative
 - b. **Community Investment Sharing** – Public Private Development/Infrastructure Investment
 - c. **Explorer Transit Systems**
 - d. **Safe Routes to School**
 - e. Bike/ped System Investments plus Trails
 - f. **Transit Bonus Program**
 - g. **Quality Community Program**
 - i. Consolidated funding application
 - ii. One set of criteria for all programs
 - iii. Transportation Enhancements for Bike/Ped, Scenic, Historic, Landscaping improvements
 - iv. Community Gateways
 - v. Surface Water Quality Protection Program
 - vi. Small Harbor Improvement Program
 - vii. Boating Infrastructure Grant
 - viii. Technical Assistance
 - h. **Flexible Design Standards**
 - i. Traffic Calming Policy
 - ii. Sidewalk and Shoulder Paving Policy
 - iii. Many Others

5. **Other CORE MaineDOT Programs/Investment Strategies that Enhance Quality of Place:**
 - a. **Regional Economic and Energy Connections**
 - i. **Go-Maine and Park ‘n Ride Programs**
 - ii. **Clean Fuel Fleet Conversion**
 - iii. **CRESTs/Multimodal Corridor Management Plans** – Regionally based Investment Strategies
 - iv. **Passenger Intermodal facilities** – (Trenton + Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Ellsworth)
 - v. **3 Port Strategy** – Portland, Searsport, Eastport
 - vi. **Airport investment and services oversight**
 - vii. **Industrial Rail Access Program**
 - viii. **State Rail Planning**
 1. Passenger Rail – Downeaster/Downeaster Extension/Portland North
 2. Freight Intermodal connections
 3. Strategic purchasing of rail
 - ix. Can Am Study
 - x. Roads for Jobs Program (currently un-funded)
 - xi. **Composites Initiative**
 - b. **Fiscal Sustainability**
 - i. STPA – Fix It First Policy
 - ii. **LD 1790 – Chapter 470**
 1. Schedule and funding needs for major investments in the pipe
 2. Requirements to upgrade substandard highways and bridges within certain time frames
 3. Report Card mandate
 - iii. **Keeping our Bridges Safe Report – Bridge Investment Plan**