



# Washington County Council of Governments

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Helping Washington County  
Communities Plan for Tomorrow

Judy East, AICP  
Executive Director

October 4, 2017

David Bernhardt, PE, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

RE: Federal funding for connecting I-395 to Route 9

Dear Commissioner Bernhardt,

Please accept this letter in support of construction of the I-395 Route 9 connector between Brewer and Eddington. This project will significantly improve the ability of freight and automobile traffic from Washington County to reach the Interstate system.

The economic development benefits run in both directions. Several of our most significant economic sectors will benefit from the ability to reach markets outside of Washington County with greater speed and efficiency. Specific examples of those who will realize savings in both time and cost include:

- the products generated at the newly renovated and expanded tissue mill in Baileyville;
- shellfish and seafood from multiple Downeast harbors;
- bulk materials to the Port of Eastport;
- the largest blueberry harvest in the United States; and
- a growing number of agricultural products.

The tourism sector in Washington County is also diverse and growing. The I-395 connector will support travelers seeking to explore beyond the congestion of Bar Harbor offered in Washington County. The I-395 connector will provide access for an increasing population of cyclists, and enhance four-season access to those with trailers for recreational camping, snowmobiling and ATV trail use. Finally, the efficiency of travel by residents and professional services personnel to and from the I-95 corridor and Washington County will be vastly improved by this I-395 connector. Thank you very much for your efforts to secure federal funding to make this project a reality.

Sincerely

Judy East, Executive Director