

"Proceed with caution: we have all entered pothole purgatory"

Larry Adams

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To: Brewer City Council; Brewer City Manager; Councilor Beverly Uhlenhake; Councilor Joseph Ferris; Councilor Kevin O'Connell; Deputy Mayor Matthew Vachon; Mayor Jerry W. Goss; Eddington Board of Selectman and Town Manager; Carol Woodcock / U.S. Senator Susan Collins; Elizabeth Montgomery Schneider MacTaggart / U.S. Senator Angus King; Representative Arthur Verow - District #21; Representative David Johnson - District#20; Rosemary Winslow / U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud; Senator Edward Youngblood - District#31;

<http://bangordailynews.com/2014/04/04/living/proceed-with-caution-we-have-all-entered-pothole-purgatory/>

"Don Colson, the former anchor at WABI-TV, now lives in Stonington. He said the fishermen down that way were setting their lobster traps in the potholes along Route 15."

"Chris Popper, director of sports programming and senior account executive at Townsquare Media, swears he saw the Red October submarine surfacing from one in Brewer, this week."

"Maine Attorney General Janet Mills recently noted jokingly to me on Facebook that a road down her way was so rough that her radio switched channels by itself and her airbags deployed each time she drove down it."

"While we may occasionally make light, for the sake of our sanity, about our annual road trip down the true highway to hell, **the reality is that the conditions of Maine roads are shameful, costly and dangerous.** Blame who or what you will, but **the crumbling pavement across Maine creates an impression of a state and its municipalities unable to take care of the most basic infrastructural needs. A pothole is one thing, a complete disintegration of large portions of roadway is another** and is something the folks in Augusta need to address, hopefully with some level of bi-partisanship."

We all know the condition of our roads and bridges, the question should be - why do we allow it? We need to spend our limited transportation dollars on our existing and failing infrastructure and not one cent on any new pet project; stop the Presque Isle Bypass and the I-395/Route 9 Connector projects immediately and reprogram those critical funds to fix what obviously needs to be fixed right now.

DOT's recent remarks: "**We are over a hundred million dollars shy each year on projects each year, including capital projects, of where we would like to be. So, we're forced to prioritize our roads.**"

The \$61 million saved by cancelling the I-395/Route 9 Connector project can be better spent on the unmet transportation needs of the state of Maine.

Yes "...the condition of Maine roads are shameful..."

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