



Town of Eddington

906 Main Road • Eddington, Maine 04428

October 17, 2012

Richard N. Hewes
Transportation Attorney
MDOT
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

RE: I-395 Connector FOAA Request

Dear Richard,

The Eddington Board of Selectmen at their meeting October 16, 2012 voted to pursue the FOAA request from Planning Board Member Gretchen Heldmann regarding the I-395 US Route 9 Connector Route. It is in the best interest of the community to be informed, as this project will have a major impact on the Town of Eddington. The Board of Selectmen has asked that the fees be waived in this matter, as the information would contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government.

The Board of Selectmen are making an official FOAA request for all emails that were sent or received that relate to the I-395 US Route 9 Connector project in any way, shape or form from the following individuals: Russ Charette, Judy Gates, Richard Bostwick, Herb Thomson, David Bernhardt, Ken Sweeney, Deane VanDusen and Steve Walker. Specifically, this means emails sent or received with comments about permits, the public hearing, drafts of documents, arrangements for meetings, etc as they may relate to this project. The Board would like to see all available emails on this matter for the time period of August 1, 2011 through the present date of October 17, 2012.

The Board of Selectmen would also like to know of any meetings held since the May 2012 Public Hearing, to discuss this project, whether explicitly stated as an agenda item or not. The Board wants to know of ANY meetings held, regardless of whether they were Interagency Meetings or not. The Board also wants to know about any conference calls held regarding this project and to see any notes taken by the participants.

On January 6, 2012, the Maine Department of Transportation issued an apology statement that was printed in the Bangor Daily News as follows: "The Maine Department of Transportation...regrets the insufficient outreach by Maine DOT to leaders of the affected communities along the proposed I-395 US Route 9 connector," the statement read. "Town officials and the residents of Brewer, Holden, Eddington and Clifton deserve to be fully informed of all decisions and progress. We recognize that it is our

obligation to do so, and we will rectify this situation in the future.” ... “In the coming weeks, Maine DOT officials will refocus on the public process in which residents will have ongoing opportunities to provide feedback including review of the draft environmental impact statement and public hearing(s) as needed. We look forward to hearing from all interested parties,” the statement concluded.

The Maine DOT has not kept the Town Officials and Residents fully informed whatsoever since the Public Hearing in May. As Town Manager of Eddington I have not been contacted or have my fellow Managers in Brewer or Holden. At the Public Hearing it was said that the Public Advisory Committee would meet again and as of today's date they have not been contacted either. The so called, “Interagency Meetings” that were scheduled were canceled and Maine DOT stated that there would be “Working Sessions” that would be public meetings but no input from the public would be taken. The Town of Eddington has a big stake in this project and as Town Manager I would like to be informed and be able to attend any meetings along with any Town Officials to oversee the process.

The public process and transparency still seem to be an issue and therefore is the reason for the FOAA request from the Eddington Board of Selectmen.

Thank you for your time in this matter and I will look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'S'.

Russell J. Smith
Town Manager