

Definition of boondoggle:
“work or activity that is wasteful or pointless but gives the appearance of having value”

Congratulations to our friends at the MaineDOT, the FHWA and the ACOE for resurrecting an alternative (2B) removed from consideration in January 2003 because *“traffic congestion and conflicting vehicle movements on this section of Route 9 would substantially increase the potential for new safety concerns and hazards...the lack of existing access controls and the inability to effectively manage access along this section of Route 9, and the number of left turns, contribute to the poor LOS [level of service] and safety concerns.”* [Oct 2003 Technical Memorandum](#)

That unsafe alternative (2B) was repackaged as 2B-2 and back in consideration at the insistence of the ACOE in September 2003—against the wishes of the MaineDOT and the FHWA, and against [guidelines](#) that eliminated alternatives from the study that did not connect on Route 9 east of Route 46.

2B-2 met only 20% of the five study purpose and needs in [April of 2009](#) at the final PAC meeting—the MaineDOT and FHWA would persevere—by September 2010, 2B-2 was on its way to become the second preferred alternative of this study.

FHWA finalized this boondoggle in their June 2016 [ROD](#). That same alternative (2B) removed from consideration for reasons of *“the potential for new safety concerns and hazards”* will open to traffic by September of 2024 at a cost of \$79.25 million—a shocking 15 yearlong transformation!!!