

"Rolling the Dice"

Larry Adams

9/16/2013 7:33 AM

To: Brewer City Council; Mayor Jerry W. Goss; Councilor Kevin O'Connell; Brewer City Manager; 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;

Cc: Personal addresses redacted.

Please read the article in its entirety @ <http://www.pressherald.com/news/Double-red-flags-for-several-dozen-Maine-bridges-.html>; original article redacted for website use.

"...the state conducts more inspections than mandated on those classified as "fracture critical" because failure of a single component could cause a collapse."

"The Associated Press analyzed data involving 607,380 bridges in the National Bridge Inventory that are subject to National Bridge Inspection Standards. On a national basis, there are 65,605 structurally deficient bridges and 20,808 fracture critical bridges, according to the most recently available federal government data. Some 7,795 bridges fall into both categories — a double red flag."

"In Maine, however, the number of bridges falling into both categories was relatively small, given the state's many rivers and streams, with 47 bridges meeting both criteria. Of those, 39 are owned by the MDOT. Already, 29 of those bridges are "in the pipeline" in terms of design, repair or overhaul, and 11 are either weight-restricted or closed, Getchell said."

"The state produced a 2008 report called "Keeping Our Bridges Safe" after the Interstate 35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis and followed up with a top-to-bottom look at the state's inspection program, inventory and capital program. The state Legislature also approved extra funding of \$40 million a year for four years."

[Keeping our Bridges Safe](#), mentioned in the news article, was published on November 26, 2007. Please take your time and look over the document. To truly understand the condition of the bridges within our transportation system, it would be most helpful if this document was updated with 2013 information to see if the promises made in the original document were carried through, primarily the funding part. If we fail to fund the MaineDOT to properly do their job, the blame is no longer solely on the MaineDOT but on all of us for ignoring the infrastructure for so long.

Executive Summary excerpt:<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/pdf/Keeping%20Our%20Bridges%20Safe.1107.pdf>:

In summary, there are only two ways to protect public safety over the long term: Repair or replace *poor* bridges and preserve *fair* bridges before they become *poor*, OR continue to close bridges when their condition warrants. With over 2,000 bridges in *fair* or *poor* condition, Maine's economy cannot afford to have the highway network become unconnected, nor can we allow unsafe bridges to stay open. Without a balanced, sustainable bridge work plan, load postings and closures will be the only "safety net" left.

With over 2,000 bridges in fair or poor condition is a statement of fact that should grab your attention as we only have 2,408 bridges in our transportation system. We need to properly fund the repair and replacement of our failing infrastructure NOW. Cancel the I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study, go NO-BUILD immediately and save \$61 million in state and federal funding! That \$61 million can be best spent on the unmet transportation needs of our state.



<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/state-facts/maine>

Condition of Maine's Bridges:

- 356 of the 2,408 bridges in Maine (14.8%) are considered structurally deficient.
- 436 of the 2,408 bridges in Maine (18.1%) are considered functionally obsolete.

Condition of Maine's Roads:

- Driving on roads in need of repair costs Maine motorists \$246 million a year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs – \$245 per motorist.
- 53% of Maine's major roads are in poor or mediocre condition.
- Maine has 22,838 public road miles.
- Maine's highway vehicle-miles traveled in 2009 was approximately 10,961 per capita, ranking it 15th in the nation.

<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/state-facts/maine>

Thank you for your time, your support and consideration of my views, Larry Adams