

As of February 2015—\$2.8 million had been spent to select a deficient alternative removed from consideration in 2003...

As of [February 2015](#) “About **\$2.8 million has been spent to date on feasibility studies**, mostly federal dollars [\$2,205,277.00], according to the Maine Department of Transportation. The department [testified before lawmakers early this month](#), saying the state could be responsible for reimbursing the Federal Highway Administration for those federal funds had the favored route been pulled from consideration by the state.” MaineDOT’s premise was spending \$61 million would save the state \$2.2 million! [Bangor Daily News 2.17.2015](#)

How did the MaineDOT spend that kind of money and how much more have they squandered since Feb2015? What do they we have to show for that \$2.8 million besides a couple of fancy documents?

Have you driven I-395 lately? The state can’t even maintain the existing 4.99 miles, yet they want to extend the highway another 6.1 miles with a route (2B-2) that doesn’t satisfy the project’s purpose and needs—for the bargain price of \$61 million!

2B-2 threatens Atlantic salmon designated critical habitat. 2B-2 will not only demolish the homes, but the hopes and dreams of 8 families and diminishes the quality of life for those remaining families in close proximity—through no fault of their own—simply because MaineDOT refuses to follow their own study criteria by selecting an alternative that does not meet the “east of Route 46” system linkage need—when 45 of the 79 studied alternatives satisfied that need. **MaineDOT’s decision to defer 2B-2’s system linkage need (20 years) shifts 2B-2’s long-term needs and future costs to your grandchildren.**

At a time when the current [MaineDOT Work Plan](#) contains a \$204 million shortfall in the core highway and bridge programs with \$99 million in unmet bridge needs—when the state struggles to maintain existing infrastructure—when [33% of our bridges](#) are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete and [38% of our roads](#) are rated only as fair to unacceptable: wouldn’t 2B-2’s \$61 million cost be better spent on Maine’s unmet transportation needs?