

**From:** Russo, Meghan  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2019 4:35 PM  
**Subject:** RE: I-395/Route 9 Connector

Good Afternoon Mr. Adams:

Governor Mills forwarded your below email of January 18, 2019 regarding the I-395/Route 9 Connector and asked us to respond to you directly.

Based on your email and previous correspondence with the department we understand that you disagree with MaineDOT as to whether the preferred alignment (Alternative 2B-2) meets the purpose and need of the study:

1. Identify a section of the National Highway System (NHS) in Maine from I-395 in Brewer to Route 9 in Eddington, consistent with the current American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*;
2. Improve regional system linkage;
3. Improve safety on Routes 1A and 46; and
4. Improve the current and future flow of traffic and shipment of goods to the interstate system.

At the Public Informational Meeting on July 20, 2016 MaineDOT reexamined the issue of regional system and traffic flow in 2009 and 2010 while we conducted the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the study. The traffic analysis determined that Alternative 2B-2 met system linkage and that the section of Route 9 could accommodate the future traffic volumes, thereby meeting the Purpose and Need of the study.

The 2016 meeting was based upon the issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which finalized the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and selected Alternative 2B-2 as the environmentally preferred alternative for the project. It also authorized final design and right-of-way to begin and for the planning study to transition to a project. MaineDOT aimed to explain the study background, what the issuance of the ROD meant, and next steps. This also was the forum to discuss the merits of the project which MaineDOT planning staff in addition to answering and responding to questions and statements from the public in attendance. The presentation from that meeting is located at the [project website](#) under the Informational Materials tab.

A Preliminary Public Meeting for the project held on June 27, 2018 was held to describe the recent updates regarding the actual design of the project and answer questions regarding the right-of-way process. Additionally, planning staff were available to again discuss and explain the merits of the project to those in attendance.

MaineDOT understands a project of this size cannot please every member of the public, however, we stand by the process and the decision that Alternative 2B-2 is the preferred alternative as determined by the FHWA in the ROD, and the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) as determined by the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).

I would be glad to assist in answering any other questions you might have about this project.

Sincerely,  
Meghan Russo

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