

# Portland Press Herald

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## TODAY'S LETTERS



### LETTERS

**Stops for Wiscasset traffic light may be longer than intended**

Since the signal is located in the middle of a steep hill on Route 1, big rigs may have a hard time getting moving when the light changes.

We all respect the effort of the Maine Department of Transportation workers, who keep our roads clear and safe throughout the year. But there is another aspect of DOT that requires more oversight than it receives. The engineering department apparently believes that DOT stands for: Don't Overthink. We have all witnessed some of their bonehead designs and wondered who was responsible for that.

Well, that office has struck again. In the middle of the hill, the somewhat steep hill in Wiscasset, there now stands a traffic light. The semis that ply Route 1 will now need to stop for that red light in the middle of that steep hill – in the winter. Well, they may not get moving again. And, come summer, when the pavement heats and softens, those same semis will cause rolls in the pavement as they attempt to start moving after their stop.

The irony here is that all the work being done is designed to ease the flow of traffic, but stopping those big rigs on a hill? Sophist engineering.

**Richard Foley**

*Gorham*

## Title 23: TRANSPORTATION

### Part 1: STATE HIGHWAY LAW

## Chapter 3: OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES

### Subchapter 1: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Click here to view this Maine State Statute online.](#)

## §73. Transportation policy

1. Short title. This section may be known and cited as the "Sensible Transportation Policy Act."

### 2. Purposes and findings.

*"The people further find that the decisions of state agencies regarding transportation needs and facilities are often made in isolation, without sufficient comprehensive planning and opportunity for meaningful public input and guidance."*

Does anyone really think that's funny? Legislators actual felt it necessary to put that into a statute? Seems to line up with the above LTE...