

## Saturday, April 2, 2016: Second Amendment not obsolete, I-395 connector questions unanswered

### I-395 connector questions unanswered

I am opposed to the [Interstate 395-Route 9 connector](#). Shortly after I addressed the March 25 [Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System](#) meeting, Scott Rollins of the Maine Department of Transportation claimed what we've heard is not true. Deputy Commissioner Jon Nass pointed to several books, saying the project has been thoroughly vetted. One of them contains 67 pages of my own questions to the 2012 draft environmental impact statement, the majority of which the Department of Transportation considered not substantive, neatly packaged and unanswered.

That's what these people do: control the conversation by dissimulation. Maybe it's time the public demands real answers as our tax dollars drive these events. As of February 2015, \$2.8 million had been spent on this study and the cost to construct the 2B2 route is \$61 million.

I have asked the following question of many state and federal officials and no one has answered. FOIA documents of emails starting on Dec. 16, 2011, indicate that the Federal Highway Administration study co-manager advised his Maine Department of Transportation counterpart that because of criteria changes, the preferred alternative, the 2B2, does not satisfy the purpose and need and moving forward with the analysis is now an apples-to-oranges comparison. We would learn two years later that the Federal Highway Administration study co-manager was overruled by his superiors. The administration needs to explain why they allowed this study to continue and why they suppressed such serious concerns from their own transportation professional.

This has been and continues to be an unethical process locking out private citizens and their municipal leaders.

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