

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016:

## I-395 connector unnecessary

Rep. Andrew McLean, House chair of the Legislature's Transportation Committee, states in his [Sept. 5 BDN OpEd](#) that we are consistently short \$168 million every year just to fund basic road and bridge maintenance. He goes on to say our infrastructure is aged and dilapidated, and he is trying to make improvements. He is working with the Maine Department of Transportation to find cost savings wherever possible. He also states that voters have [overwhelmingly and repeatedly approved transportation bond measures](#), but he says, and I agree, that we shouldn't rely on borrowing money for basic road maintenance.

I can't help wondering, if we can't maintain our existing roads why are we building new ones? Take for instance, the [proposed I-395/Route 9 connector in Brewer and Eddington](#). This project is costing an estimated \$61 million. Some money comes from federal sources but not all. Maine's share is 20 percent. But think about it. That's \$61 million (and, of course, there likely will be overages) for a 6.1-mile road from where I-395 ends in Brewer to Route 9 in Eddington.

What is the point of this road? This is to allow Canadian traffic a quicker route to the Interstate system. Why should we build a road for Canada? That's what we have been asking for years.

Vinal S. Smith

*Brewer*

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