

Monday, Sept. 21, 2015:

395 connector not needed

The Maine Department of Transportation decided we need a connector from I-395 in Brewer to Route 9 in Eddington to [ease the traffic](#) on Route 1A and Route 46, which goes to the Bucksport mill. Now that the mill is closed, the DOT's concern has shifted to [Canadian truck traffic](#). Is subsidizing Canadian trucking really the best use of our scarce transportation dollars?

The University of Maine System is scrambling for money; the Department of Health and Human Services is being cut, along with forestry and law enforcement. The list goes on and on.

Our roads and bridges are in disrepair. Should we spend another \$61 million on 6.1 miles of new pavement when the DOT's [current work plan](#) includes an annual shortfall of \$119 million?

Nothing local residents do seems to have any effect. Personal agendas and politics have trumped any support from our legislators. They simply will not act on our concerns.

Maine is borrowing \$1 billion over a decade to maintain the current roads and bridges. For the past 15 years, residents and towns have asked DOT not to build this connector. I suppose the DOT knows what it's doing. Or does it?

Vinal S. Smith

Brewer

[Click here to view online.](#)