

An email on 4.20: the news keeps getting worse...

Maine has no money now and our money woes will only get worse in the future - yet - the DOT continues spending as if nothing is wrong.

“The Moody’s analysis suggests that even when accounting for the rainy day fund, the state is still expected to face a budget shortfall of between 11 percent and 17 percent of revenue...Maine could lose \$200 million by the end of June and up to \$1 billion by mid-2021, according to dire projections showing that nearly a quarter of state revenue could be in danger due to the coronavirus.” [BDN on 4.17.2020](#)

“The drop in traffic is having a negative effect on the department's budget. MaineDOT is forecasting a 40% reduction in revenue over the next six months [\$74 million] .The department is also anticipating losing \$125 million in gas tax revenue over the next year and a half.” [WMTW on 4.15.2020](#)

A ballooning annual \$232 million shortfall in the current 3 year work plan forced the cancellation of 142 projects in January; how many more road and bridge projects will need to be cancelled due to the covid-19 projected \$125 million loss in gas tax revenues?

The DOT continues to move ahead — seemingly unchecked — with the \$100 million I-395 connector project when they should be suspending all new projects and re-appropriating those limited resources to the unmet transportation needs of our state. The MaineDOT’s preferred alternative (2B-2) meets the system linkage need only in the near-term (20 years) per the DEIS; the I-395 connector project is nothing more than a short-term, ribbon-cutting, photo-op with questionable long term benefits.