

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/27/26 MAJORITY (Filing No. H-820)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 187, L.D. 287, "An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Transportation to Prioritize Funding Transportation Construction Projects That Facilitate Access to Affordable or Dense Housing'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Department of Transportation; funding priorities. Resolved: That during the period beginning on August 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027, the Department of Transportation, subject to available funding resources, may prioritize the funding of transportation construction projects that:

- 1. Provide street access for all transportation system users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, other users not in a motor vehicle and users of public transportation;
- 2. Encourage mixed land use by constructing residences, offices, schools, parks, shops, restaurants and other types of land use near each other;
- 3. Encourage infill development by building on empty or underutilized lots that have access to public water, sewer and emergency services;
- 4. Facilitate access to affordable or dense housing;
- 5. Encourage walkable neighborhoods;
- 6. Preserve open space, wetlands, parks, farms and woodlands; or
- 7. Encourage robust community and public participation, opinions and input in the type and scope of the transportation construction or other project.

The department may consult with the Maine Office of Community Affairs or any other relevant state agencies in evaluating transportation construction projects for funding prioritization in accordance with this section.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Sec. 2. Department of Transportation; report. Resolved:** That, by January
 2 15, 2027 and by January 15, 2028, the Department of Transportation shall submit reports
 3 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and
 4 economic development matters on the transportation construction projects funded in the
 5 previous calendar year that were prioritized using the criteria under section 1 and set forth
 6 the considerations the department made when deliberating project funding. The committee
 7 may report out legislation based on a report in the same legislative session in which the
 8 report is received.

9 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
 10 appropriations and allocations are made.

11 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

12 **Highway and Bridge Capital 0406**

13 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a consultant to create a process and scoring criteria
 14 to evaluate each of the listed criteria as well as draft the report.

15 HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
16 All Other	\$0	\$750,000
17		
18 HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$750,000

19
 20 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 21 number to read consecutively.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve authorizing the Department of
 24 Transportation to prioritize transportation funding to projects that:

- 25 1. Provide street access for all transportation system users;
- 26 2. Encourage mixed land use;
- 27 3. Encourage infill development;
- 28 4. Facilitate access to affordable or dense housing;
- 29 5. Encourage walkable neighborhoods;
- 30 6. Preserve open space, wetlands, parks, farms and woodlands; or
- 31 7. Encourage robust community and public participation, opinions and input in the
 32 type and scope of the transportation construction or other project.

33 The amendment authorizes the Department of Transportation to consult with the Maine
 34 Office of Community Affairs or any other relevant state agencies when deliberating
 35 funding of transportation construction projects that meet the criteria. The amendment also
 36 requires, by January 15, 2027 and January 15, 2028, the department to report to the joint
 37 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and economic

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development matters on the transportation construction projects the department funded that fit the provided criteria.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 287

LR 347(02)

An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-820)
 Committee: Housing and Economic Development
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
Highway Fund	\$0	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Highway Fund	\$0	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a one-time Highway Fund allocation to the Department of Transportation of \$750,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 for a consultant to create a process and scoring criteria to evaluate each of the listed criteria as well as draft the report.

Any additional costs to the Maine Office of Community Affairs from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.