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**Review of the Maine Turnpike Authority
Pursuant to the
Government Evaluation Act**

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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 9, 2006

The Honorable John G. Richardson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Beth G. Edmonds
President of the Senate
122nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation from the review and evaluation of the Maine Turnpike Authority under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the committee found that the Maine Turnpike Authority is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Dennis S. Damon in cursive.

Senator Dennis S. Damon
Chair

Handwritten signature of Representative Boyd P. Marley in cursive.

Representative Boyd P. Marley
Chair

cc: Paul E. Violette, Executive Director, Maine Turnpike Authority
Conrad Welzel, Government Relations Manager, Maine Turnpike Authority
Patrick T. Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION**

**Review of the Maine Turnpike Authority
Pursuant to the Government Evaluation Act**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act (“Act”) provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies. The law, enacted in the 117th Legislature to replace the Government Audit and Program Review Program, substitutes a legislative audit of each agency with an agency self-assessment.

The keystone to the Act is the agency program evaluation report, which consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment that the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency’s effectiveness, efficiency and performance. The components that must be included in the report are: the agency’s enabling statutes; program descriptions; organizational structure, position count and job classifications; compliance with federal and state health and safety laws; ten-year financial summaries; regulatory agenda; coordinated efforts with other state agencies; constituencies served by the agency; alternative delivery systems; emerging issues for the agency; comparison of state laws to federal laws; policies regarding use of personal information; and public filing requirements.

Review Process

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation notified the Maine Turnpike Authority of its intent to review the Authority. The Turnpike submitted its Program Evaluation Report on October 31, 2005. The Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority, Paul Violette, presented the report to the Committee on January 20, 2006. The Committee held subsequent work sessions on the report on February 16 and 28, 2006.

Findings of Review

The Turnpike serves the people of the State of Maine as a public agency, under 23 MRSA §§1961 through 1983, often referred to as the Enabling Act. The Turnpike also serves its investors, operating as a business would by ensuring that the Turnpike is run in an efficient manner that provides the bondholders a return on their investment. Under the Enabling Act, the Maine Turnpike Authority is charged with operating and maintaining the turnpike from a point at or near Kittery in York County to a point near Augusta in Kennebec County, together with connecting tunnels, bridges, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges and toll facilities. According to 23 MRSA §1961, “the economic well-being of the citizens of the State requires that the transportation system be developed in a comprehensive manner and depends on the safety, efficiency and modern functional state of the turnpike.”

The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation unanimously finds that the Maine Turnpike Authority is operating within its statutory authority.