



**Maine  
Turnpike  
Authority**

## **Portland-Area Mainline Needs Assessment Public Involvement Plan**

The Needs Assessment Study for the Portland-Area Mainline, taking place in 2017-2018, could qualify as a Significant Transportation Project depending on the outcome of the Study. If the Study determines that adding additional lanes is needed for this section of the Turnpike, that outcome falls under the first definition of A Significant Transportation Project as defined by the MTA Public Participation Policy, i.e., one or more through-travel lanes that connect major distribution areas.

The method for the public to comment will be as follows:

- A Public Advisory Committee will be formed, made up of stakeholders who represent constituencies that will be affected by the regional effects of added capacity or lack thereof in the corridor as described in the study scope of work.
- The committee will meet a minimum of four times to hear and comment on existing conditions, economic outlook, draft recommendations and final recommendations. A major effort will be made to make recommendations that are supported by the committee.
- The committee meetings will be open to the public at large, with at least a half hour of time set aside for public comment at the end of the meeting and more if needed.
- The meetings will be publicized via traditional media, major email blasts, social media and the MTA website, as well as other websites as accommodated by those stakeholders represented on the advisory committee.
- Study materials and meeting minutes will be posted in a timely manner on the MTA website on a page set aside solely for such materials. The page URL will be part of the outreach materials described in the bullet above. The public will be able to comment on the study and study materials via an email address accessed from this page.
- The MTA will also welcome and respond to email comments sent via the MTA's usual input methods.
- A draft final report including all study data and draft recommendations will be made available online at the study webpage for public comment for 30 days after such recommendations have been presented to the MTA Board of Directors. A summary version of the recommendations will also be made available via press release, Facebook and email blast.
- After the 30-day period, the final report, including specific recommendations, will be posted on the study webpage.