



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

PAUL R. LePAGE
GOVERNOR

March 1, 2011

Mr. Don White
8 Pearl Street
Camden, Maine 04843

To: Mr. Don White, Chairman
Gateway 1 Implementation Steering Committee

Re: Gateway 1

Dear Chairman White and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to let you know that we are suspending the Gateway 1 planning process, effective immediately. Please be sure to inform the municipality that appointed you of this development.

As you know, I was recently appointed by Governor LePage to be Maine's Commissioner of Transportation, and I began serving in this position in mid-February. Having been briefed by MaineDOT staff about the Gateway 1 planning process, the commitments contained in the Inter-Local Agreement, and the process by which municipalities would approve (or reject) moving forward with forming a corridor coalition, I discussed this information with the Governor and senior staff in the Administration. We have come to the conclusion that while Gateway 1 has been a very worthy effort, it does not correspond with the immediate priorities of this administration. Therefore, we have made the decision to suspend the Gateway 1 planning process.

I recognize that this decision may have impacts on long-term planning efforts in the Route 1 corridor. However, given the significant and growing fiscal constraints under which we are operating, our top priority must be to focus our time and scarce resources on existing short-term critical infrastructure needs—roads and bridges primarily—to the greatest extent possible.

Over the last six years, MaineDOT has developed strong relationships with the Gateway 1 communities, and through this process, we have produced an action plan to guide planning on the Route 1 corridor in the Midcoast region.



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The communities, and you, their appointed representatives to the steering committee, have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to this endeavor. I realize that suspension of Gateway 1 will be a disappointment to those who have worked hard on this project, but I am confident that we can continue to work together, outside of the Gateway 1 process, on the many shared interests we have along the Route 1 corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Bernhardt". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Bernhardt
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Paul R. LePage, Governor of Maine
The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe, United States Senator
The Honorable Susan M. Collins, United States Senator
The Honorable Michael H. Michaud, Member of Congress
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Member of Congress