



# Yes on Question #1

Yes on Question #1 | c/o MBTA | 146 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330 | 207-622-0526 (phone) | 207-623-2928 (fax)

## For Immediate Release

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## Coalition forms to support YES vote on Question #1 - Transportation bond on June 10 ballot -

Transportation advocates, including leading Maine business and safety organizations have joined to pass Question #1, a \$29.7 million bond referendum that will appear on the June 10 primary ballot. The group, called the "Yes on #1 Coalition," is citing the safety and economic benefits of infrastructure investments that would be funded by the bond.

Transportation funding accounts for \$23 million of the total bond package and would leverage up to \$26.52 million in federal and private matching transportation funds. The referendum question also includes two smaller bond issues with \$6.7 million in funding to develop clean air and natural resource programs; that portion of the bond issue is estimated to generate \$3.28 million in matching funds. The bond question is the only referendum issue on the upcoming statewide ballot.

"These are lean economic times, and a YES vote on Question 1 would mean a great deal to the state in terms of economic stimulus," said Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, one of several business organizations to join the coalition. "It also has far-reaching and positive impacts for all of our major industries like tourism and forestry." According to job creation figures developed by the Federal Highway Administration, the highway component of the bond package will support 1,224 jobs for Maine workers, when federal matching funds are included.

While the bond issue represents more than \$49 million total investments in transportation infrastructure, it also promises major safety improvements, according to Thomas Judge, executive director of LifeFlight of Maine. "Voting YES benefits all of Maine; it's money for a variety of multimodal projects that will make our highways safer and improve access to critical services in all corners of the state," said Judge.

The bond issue is the second component of a funding package enacted by the Legislature last year. Last June, voters passed the first part of that package, a \$113 million transportation bond issue, by a nearly 3-to-1 margin. The June 10 bond will fund critical rail, ferry, aviation, trail, transit and highway projects.

"If anyone doubts we need to invest more in our transportation network, just remember this spring's potholes and posted roads," said Maria Fuentes of the Maine Better Transportation Association, another coalition member. "We've neglected our roads for years, and we need to invest now," she said. "If we don't, Maine citizens will continue to pay the price in increased accident rates, higher vehicle maintenance and fuel costs."

For more information, visit [mbtaonline.org](http://mbtaonline.org) or call 207.622.0526.

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