



September 23, 2004

Dear Opinion Leader:

Last spring, the Maine Department of Transportation met with hundreds of individuals from communities along the Route 1 corridor to identify transportation and land use issues from Brunswick to Stockton Springs. This was the start of MaineDOT's Gateway-1, a corridor preservation strategic planning project. You can find details regarding Gateway-1 in the accompanying fact sheet.

We found these conversations extremely helpful and are grateful to all who participated. Since then, we have taken the information and opinions we gathered, along with related data from each town and the state, and put together an assessment of the land use and transportation issues facing Route 1 as it passes through these communities. **This assessment has created a number of concerns about Route 1's ability over the long term to absorb anticipated growth.**

Now we want to share our findings with a larger audience. This fall, we will be holding five larger scale multi-town meetings along the corridor to get feedback on whether our assessment of the issues facing Route 1 is accurate. We will be actively publicizing these meetings and hope you can attend. Please encourage your neighbors and friends to attend as well.

All locations, dates and times are noted on the fact sheet. All meetings are open to the public but **you are especially encouraged to attend the meeting scheduled for your community**. The first 45 minutes of every meeting will consist of an informal Open House where you can get a closer look at the displays and ask questions. Hors d'oeuvres will be available. Our consultant team will then give a 30-minute presentation on our findings and ask for your feedback.

It is important to note that this phase of Gateway-1 is focused on identifying and getting agreement on community issues and problems, not on proposing solutions. The solution phase will take place beginning in 2005. As a result, we will discourage any discussion of specific solutions during this meeting.

We hope that this phase of the Gateway-1 project will lead to a town-approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between each town, MaineDOT and other state or federal agencies. If you would like a copy of the sample MOU before the meeting, you can find it at www.gateway1.org.

Please let us know if you can attend this important meeting by leaving a message at 1-800-588-MDOT or emailing nlafreniere@garrand.com. If you have any questions, please call Carol Morris at 329-6502 or me at 624-3400.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fuller, AICP
Director, MaineDOT Environmental Office