

7.0 • Conclusion and Next Steps

The MaineDOT and the FHWA have preliminarily identified Alternative N2/N2a/N2h-1 as its preferred alternative for furthering the purpose and satisfying the needs of the study with the least overall impact to the environment. In reaching its preliminary decision, the MaineDOT and the FHWA considered, in part:

- The Towns of Wiscasset and Edgecomb cannot formally agree on a preferred alternative.
- The Town of Wiscasset cannot fully support Alternative N2/N8c due to its visual impact to Wiscasset Village.
- The Town of Edgecomb cannot fully support Alternative N2/N2h/N2f-1 due to its proximity to the Sheepscot River shoreline and its impact to the neighborhood along Englebrekt Road.
- Both towns are not opposed to supporting Alternative N2/N2a/N2h-1 as the preferred alternative.
- Alternative N2/N2a/N2h-1 received unanimous endorsement by the Midcoast Bypass Task Force.

The MaineDOT and the FHWA request the USCOE consider identifying Alternative N2/N2a/N2h-1 as the LEDPA. Once the LEDPA is identified, the MaineDOT and FHWA would identify it as its' preferred alternative in the FEIS / Section 4(f) Evaluation. During preparation of the FEIS / Section 4(f) Evaluation, the MaineDOT and the FHWA would continue to work with the federal and state regulatory and resource agencies throughout the remainder of the NEPA and permitting processes and towards identifying a selected alternative.