

PRESS RELEASE: Rte. 112/Exit 36 Area Transportation Study FINAL Public Meeting

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For more information:

Carol Morris, Morris Communications, 207-329-6502; Emily Roy, City of Saco, 207-282-4191

Public Meeting on Route 112/Exit 36 Traffic Patterns to take place February 13

The City of Saco, Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT), and the Maine Turnpike Authority will hold a public meeting February 13 to hear public feedback on options for managing traffic patterns in the Route 112/Exit 36 area.

Last spring, the City launched a study to evaluate potential improvements to the morning and evening congestion occurring on Route 112 and surrounding roads. Previous analysis had produced a list of short and long-term potential options, including improving intersections and traffic signals, restricting turn movements, widening Turnpike ramps, or constructing a new road between the Turnpike and Route 112, among others. All these ideas, singly and in combination, have been thoroughly evaluated and the various options will be rolled out for public feedback on February 13 at 6 pm at Saco City Hall Auditorium.

Study data will give the City, MaineDOT, and the Maine Turnpike Authority information for making effective decisions on improving traffic flow and public safety in this area. The range of options includes those that could be implemented in both the short and long term.

Patrick Fox, director of Saco Public Works, noted, "We've had a great turnout for the previous two public meetings and hope to see the same for this final meeting. There are multiple challenges being addressed by this study, and many are complex, so we are

looking forward to an active conversation and lots of questions so people fully understand the options.”

Those who are unable to attend the meeting can go to the Saco website at <http://sacomaine.org/route112> on the morning of the 14th to view an online presentation that includes these options. Email comments are welcome and must be submitted by February 28.

The study will be completed in late spring of this year., and a final report will be available online. The City of Saco, Maine Turnpike Authority and MaineDOT will be implementing final recommendations in a phased approach based on funding availability and in the context of statewide safety and mobility needs.