



2025

## Maine Turnpike Authority

### Interchange Policy

#### Purpose

The Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) is committed to maintaining and enhancing the safety, reliability, and operational effectiveness of the Turnpike system in support of its core mission: to provide dependable transportation infrastructure for the traveling public.

#### Policy

The MTA will consider modifications to existing interchanges or the development of new interchanges only when such projects:

1. **Support the Authority's core mission**, including improvements to traffic flow, safety, and overall system performance;
2. **Demonstrate a clear and direct benefit** to Turnpike users and the regional transportation network;
3. **Align with available resources** and long-term planning priorities;

Additionally, the Authority shall maintain its sole discretion to evaluate, prioritize, and determine the feasibility of interchange proposals based on their alignment with strategic goals, operational needs, and statutory responsibilities. Each proposal will be assessed on its individual merits, and the level of analysis applied will be appropriate to the specific circumstances of the request. Evaluation criteria may include expected improvements in traffic flow, safety, environmental impact, regional economic benefits, cost-effectiveness, consistency with long-range plans, interchange safety and spacing standards, engineering feasibility, and alignment with Maine's Sensible Transportation Policy Act (STPA).

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#### Funding Considerations

The Authority may consider funding interchange projects in whole or in part from its own resources. Proposals that include financial participation from third parties, such as municipalities, regional agencies, or private entities, may be given additional consideration. Such contributions may include direct funding, in-kind services, or other resources that reduce the financial burden on the Authority.



All funding arrangements must be formalized through a written agreement that clearly defines the roles, responsibilities, and financial commitments of all parties. The Authority retains sole discretion to determine the level and type of third-party participation accepted or required for any proposed project.

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### **Environmental Review**

All proposed interchange projects must comply with applicable environmental regulations and policies, including state and federal review processes. As part of its evaluation, the Authority will consider potential impacts on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, land use compatibility, and natural resources, and may require supporting documentation from project proponents.

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### **Public Engagement**

Public engagement will be conducted in accordance with the MTA's Public Participation Policy. The Authority reserves the right to conduct conceptual or preliminary evaluations of proposed interchange projects without initiating a public process. However, once a project demonstrates a reasonable likelihood of advancing beyond conceptual evaluation, based on internal review or a preliminary feasibility study, the Authority will engage affected municipalities and the public as part of the project development process.

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### **Interagency Coordination**

The Authority will coordinate with the Maine Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and other relevant agencies to ensure consistency with statewide transportation planning efforts and applicable federal interstate access requirements, including FHWA's oversight of interchange modifications and access approvals.

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### **Policy Administration**

Requests for interchange studies or proposals from external entities may be considered at the sole discretion of the Authority, based on its evaluation of strategic priorities and system needs. Such consideration does not imply commitment to study, design, or construct any proposed project.

The Authority reserves the right to initiate, modify, or reject interchange projects based on internal assessments, strategic priorities, and statutory obligations. This policy is subject to revision without notice.



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### Questions Regarding this Policy

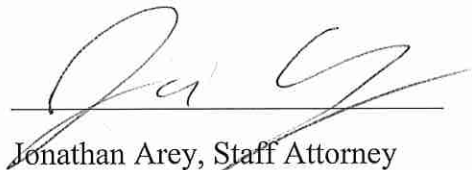
This interchange policy has been approved by the Maine Turnpike Authority and is effective as of September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. It is subject to revision or amendment, with Authority approval, without prior notice. Anyone with questions regarding this policy should contact the Maine Turnpike Authority using the "Contact Us" link at [www.MaineTurnpike.com](http://www.MaineTurnpike.com).

#### Approved:

  
Andre Briere, Executive Director

10/17/25  
Date

#### Approved as to Form:

  
Jonathan Arey, Staff Attorney

10/16/25  
Date

**Note:** *Approved by MTA Board September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025*