

KEY FACTS ABOUT MAINE'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, which has been called the most ambitious public works project built since the Roman Empire, is the most critical link in Maine's transportation system.

- Maine has 367 miles of Interstate routes running the length of the state and connecting the state's major urban areas.
- Maine's Interstate system, which includes three percent of all roadway lane miles in the state, carries 21 percent of all vehicle travel in the state.
- Since funding of the Interstate system was approved in 1956, vehicle miles of travel in Maine have increased by 288 percent, the state's population has jumped by 39 percent from 947,000 to approximately 1.3 million and the number of vehicles in Maine has increased by 219 percent.

The state's Interstate Highway System saves the average Maine resident **\$1,891 per year -- \$2.5 billion statewide -- in reduced accident costs such as medical expenses and lost productivity, the value of saved time and fuel, and reduced apparel, food, housing and transportation costs.**

- By reducing travel times, the Interstate system saves each Maine resident 41 hours of travel time annually - 54 million hours statewide.
- Maine's Interstate system annually reduces statewide motor fuel consumption by 26 million gallons.
- Consumer costs have been significantly lowered by the Interstate Highway System. The cost of transporting goods has been reduced because the time it takes to make trips has been decreased.
- The following chart indicates the total savings per person and statewide of the Interstate system.

	Per Person	Statewide (millions)
Safety	\$77	\$101
Time and Fuel	\$655	\$863
Reduced Consumer Costs	\$1,159	\$1,527
Total	\$1,891	\$2,491

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a national transportation research group

Traffic levels on Maine's Interstate highways is increasing as travel growth outpaces the addition of new lanes.

- Between 1990 and 2004, vehicle travel on Maine's Interstates increased by 45 percent, while lane miles on the system only increased by one-fifth of one percent.
- Between 1990 and 2004, the average annual amount of travel per Interstate-lane-mile in Maine increased by 45 percent.

Travel on Maine's Interstate highways is safer than travel on all other roadways in the state. Maine's Interstates provide travelers with a network of highways with a variety of safety designs that greatly reduce the likelihood of serious accidents.

- Maine's Interstate highways have saved approximately 800 lives in Maine since 1956. This estimate is based on assuming that if there were no Interstate highways, traffic would be carried by other major roads in the state, which have higher traffic fatality rates.
- The features that make Interstates safer than non-Interstate routes include: a separation from other roads and rail lines, a minimum of four-lanes, gentler curves and often paved shoulders, median barriers and rumble strips to warn drivers when they are leaving the roadway.

The Interstate system is the backbone of the Maine economy and has played a critical role in improving business productivity in the state.

- Every year, \$32 billion in goods are shipped from sites in Maine and another \$29 billion in goods are shipped to sites in Maine, mostly by truck.
- Seventy-eight percent of the goods shipped annually from sites in Maine are carried by trucks and another nine percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of the deliveries. Similarly, 80 percent of the goods shipped to sites in Maine are carried by trucks and another 13 percent are carried by courier services, which use trucks for part of their deliveries.

Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the U.S. Census Bureau was compiled and analyzed by TRIP, a nonprofit transportation research group based in Washington, D.C. Information is the latest available.

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