GrowSmart Maine Position on Maine Turnpike Authority's Proposed Gorham Highway Expansion

➢ Evidence shows that when new highways are built, they generate more traffic, meaning short-term relief is followed by demand for another expansion. This approach is not sustainable. Maine can do better.

➢ Sound decisions about transportation investments equally consider the economy, environment, and equity. This proposed highway expansion will clearly harm the environment for dubious economic benefits, and will continue inequitable patterns of development.

➢ New highway expansion comes at a cost beyond the dollars spent. Wetlands, farms, and natural resources that make Maine special will be permanently harmed by this project.

➢ Land use and transportation are directly linked. Highway expansion without corresponding change to land use will not solve traffic issues. The solution must address the current disconnect between location of housing, jobs, daily services and transportation options.

➢ This highway expansion would result in more dependence on single-occupancy vehicles and undermine the feasibility of public transportation, in contradiction to *Maine Won't Wait,* the state's climate action plan.

➢ Any short-term benefits from this project will not offset the permanent ecological, land use, and community impacts created by this proposed highway expansion. This moment presents an opportunity to craft a more comprehensive, long term solution, that sets an example for smart, climate sensitive, transportation planning.