

THE BOND BUYER

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Regional News

LePage Signs Maine Transportation Bond Bill

by [Andrew Coen](#)

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Maine Gov. Paul LePage has signed an \$85 million transportation bond bill aimed at improving the state's highways, bridges and ports.

The legislation, which LePage signed on July 1, now must be approved by voters a referendum this November. Investments include \$46 million for bridge replacements and rehabilitation along with \$17 million to enhance high-priority highways. An additional \$17 million in the package is dedicated for ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, transit and freight and passenger rail.

"The citizens of Maine have always recognized the importance of a solid, well-built well maintained transportation infrastructure," said Maine Department of Transportation Commissioner David Bernhardt in a statement. "I am confident when asked in November, the voters will continue to allow us to strengthen Maine's economy and build a transportation system that will benefit generations to come."

LePage announced in January a \$2 billion three-year capital program of transportation projects. The Republican governor has been clashing with legislators on releasing \$11.4 million of voter-approved bonds for land conservation.

Maine general obligation bonds are rated Aa2 by Moody's Investors Service and AA by Standard & Poor's.



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