

## **A BRIEF HISTORY of the EAST-WEST HIGHWAY**

**1944:** Interstate system plans initially include route from Calais to Burlington, Vt., via Bangor and Augusta.

**June 1967:** Gov. Ken Curtis declares his full support for highway linking Maine with upstate New York via New Hampshire and Vermont. Says he's discussed it with President Lyndon Johnson. Cost blocks progress on would-be I-92.

**January 1971:** W. Bartlett Cram, chair of East-West Highway Association, declares "prospects (for the highway) look better today than they have at any time since the effort started in 1965." Proposal runs from Calais to Amsterdam, N.Y., with multi-lane spurs to Bar Harbor, Portland and Montreal. Federal Highway Administration rejects plan.

**January 1974:** East-west highway proposal submitted to state Legislature, but is unsuccessful.

**March 1987:** Senate President Charles Pray, D-Millinocket, unveils east-west plan on Route 9/Route 2 corridor to be completed by 2000. Costs block progress.

**April 1998:** Legislature directs MDOT to study feasibility of four east-west highway routes across Maine.

**September 1999:** MDOT study concludes four-lane highway proposals do not justify costs; recommends upgrading of existing roads.

**2008:** Cianbro promotes new plan for private East-West Highway, with construction to start between 2011 and 2015. Great Recession delays effort.

**February 2012:** Cianbro asks Legislature to fund \$300,000 feasibility study, which is ultimately approved, with support from Gov. Paul LePage.

*-- By Colin Woodard*

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