



April 25, 2023

Testimony in Support of LD 1566

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Recommend Strategies to Achieve the Goal of Eliminating Traffic Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Greetings Chairs Chipman and Williams and the distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation:

My name is James Tassé, and I am the assistant director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM). Our mission is to make Maine better and safer for bicycling and walking. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1566.

While there has been some progress made in reducing the number of people dying in car crashes, bicycle riders and pedestrians continue to see increases in the numbers of fatalities per year, with bike riders seeing an 8% increase in fatal crashes, and pedestrians a 2% increase, nationally.¹

In Maine, the situation is similar. In 2022, 177 people died in traffic crashes in Maine, which included 20 pedestrians (about 12%) and two cyclists. Twenty pedestrian deaths represents the third time in the last six years fatalities have been that high.

Focused study on the problem and possible solutions needs to happen. For this reason, the BCM urges an Ought to Pass vote on this bill.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James Tassé".

James Tassé
Assistant Director

¹ <https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/nhtsa-estimates-traffic-deaths-2022-third-quarter>

James Tasse
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
LD 1566

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