



May 2, 2023

**Testimony in Support of LD 1711**

**An Act to Provide for Safe Roadway Construction Design Criteria**

Greetings Chairs Chipman and Williams, and 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 1711 "An Act to Provide for Safe Roadway Construction Design Criteria." This bill, if enacted, would require MaineDOT to place a much greater emphasis on the needs of people walking and bicycling, and for this reason alone, the Coalition recommends an ought to pass vote.

This bill grew out of the GrowSmart/BuildMaine policy action group, and demonstrates that interest in bills that direct MaineDOT to prioritize the needs of vulnerable roadway users extends well beyond the Bicycle Coalition of Maine! This bill represents the work of a group of stakeholders that includes planners, advocates, engineers, and concerned residents, and elements of it are lifted from Massachusetts Department of Transportation policy. The bill proposes an approach to roadway projects that our neighbor to the south is applying to a smaller, but more heavily-used, transportation system.

Elements of this bill that are particularly noteworthy are bike/ped infrastructure requirements linked to roadway speed and volume, and a review process that includes participants from the public who can provide fresh and authentic perspectives on project plans. Whatever the final outcome of this bill, the Transportation committee should direct MaineDOT to adopt these processes in its internal Complete Street policy and process update.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine supports this bill, and urges an Ought to Pass report.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tassé". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tassé, Assistant Director