

Margaret Brown
Brunswick
LD 527

I live at 35 Weymouth Street in Brunswick which is close enough to downtown shopping, the post office, the library and many other essentials that I very infrequently need to drive my car. I prefer to walk and ride my bike whenever possible and distance-wise, I live in a place where that works. It's good for me and it's good for the environment. However, there are many times when I feel that the motorists around me are intent on getting to wherever they are going as quickly as possible, and see me on foot or on my bike as an impediment, in spite of a few "Share the Road" signs here and there. My street happens to be one of those that many folks use to get into and out of the downtown area. At high traffic times of day when people are rushing to work and school or rushing home again, it feels dangerous to venture out on my neighborhood street which has no sidewalks. I know that my chance of survival if hit by a car moving at 40 mph is far lower than if I'm hit by a car traveling 25 mph. My street is not singular in this way. Giving my town council, in conjunction with local law enforcement, the ability to create low speed zones and deploy traffic calming measures is a good idea. More citizens of Maine towns are walking and riding and this is a good thing for multiple reasons. Let's create an environment in which these positive actions are encouraged and protected. We've created a world in which cars rule and it's time to balance out the equation for all of the users of our streets.