

Robert S. Howe
170 Pennellville Road
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Senator Ben Chipman
Representative Lynne Williams
Committee on Transportation
State House
Augusta ME 04333

Re: In support of L.D. 527, An Act to Allow Municipalities to Create Bicycle and Pedestrian Zones with Reduced Speed Limits

Dear Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and committee members:

I live on a road with a speed limit of 35 m.p.h. in what at first glance may appear to a driver unfamiliar with the area to be a rural neighborhood with little vehicular traffic. While that may be true, in fact, this neighborhood is functionally a public park due to the high volume of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, pretty much year round.

Just since I started typing this letter, at least nine people and three dogs have walked past my window. Bicyclists and walkers drive to the far end of this road and park, in order then to walk or bike on this and adjoining roads. My wife and I are among the frequent dog walkers here.

A vehicle passing us at 35 m.p.h. can be downright scary, since there are no sidewalks and the shoulders are narrow. Other roads in town have lower speed limits even though the roads are wider and there are sidewalks. The distinguishing difference in speed limits seems to be only the number of houses in a given distance, and not anything related to practical safety considerations.

There is some history to efforts by others in this neighborhood to have the speed limit lowered to 25 m.p.h., but to no avail. Perhaps that is because current law does not appear to allow the Town of Brunswick to do so. L.D. 527 would give the town this latitude. I urge your support of the bill.

Sincerely yours,

