

Matthew Pelletier
Town of Brunswick
LD 1634

This testimony is in favor of LD 1634 - An Act to Grant Municipalities the Authority to Set Certain Lower Motor Vehicle Speed Limits Without a Department of Transportation Speed Study:

As crashes and traffic fatalities increase throughout the United States and Maine, speed is one of the greatest factors that can mean the difference between life and death. The greater the speed, the greater likelihood a person will be seriously hurt or killed in an accident. This is especially true for pedestrians and bicyclists. As we work toward becoming a state that accommodates all road users, not just vehicles, we can reasonably assume that traffic accidents will continue to increase if we don't start making proactive changes. By giving municipalities the authority to set their own speed limits without conducting a speed study or going through the MaineDOT, it empowers Towns and Cities to make changes for the betterment of their community. There's no doubt in my mind that MaineDOT cares about all road users and they want to make our roads safer for all. But, they're only one entity, whose budget is stretched thin and suffering from the same lack of workforce that is plaguing all industries in Maine. Why not lighten the burden and let municipalities make changes that can have real positive impact on their communities? These changes are simple, could be implemented quickly, and will help improve safety for all.

Thank you,
Matt Pelletier