



April 27, 2023

## Testimony in Support of LD 1674

### An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects

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 1674 “An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects.”

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine frequently hears complaints about how construction projects impede bicycle, pedestrian, and wheelchair access. Signs blocking bike lanes or reading “Sidewalk Closed” are routine at construction sites, and rarely is any provision made to maintain safe access for persons walking, bicycling or rolling in a wheelchair through them. This practice is common, even on state roads, although Title 23, §654 clearly states that

“Before a state or state-aid highway is closed due to construction, the department shall establish a practical detour route and properly sign the route at all intersections. The detour route shall be maintained in a condition adequate to serve traffic until the state or state-aid highway under construction is opened to traffic.”

“Traffic,” it should be noted, is defined in Maine law as including persons walking or riding bicycles.

LD 1674 would strengthen and clarify the requirement that connectivity must be maintained through construction sites for persons walking, riding bicycles, or rolling on wheelchairs, and that such connectivity shall conform to ADA requirements. BCM believes this bill would be strengthened with language that would impose fines on contractors for failure to provide safe connectivity during construction.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine strongly 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 red ink that reads "James Tassé".

James Tassé, Assistant Director

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James Tasse  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
LD 1674

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