

Liz Trice
Portland, Cumberland
LD 1292

April 7, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

My name is Liz Trice, I've lived most of my life in Portland, and I have a masters' degree from the Muskie School in Public Policy with a focus on Community Development. I currently work in housing policy.

I support LD 1292 because:

I believe the heart, soul and economy of Maine is based on our access to unspoiled natural places including forest, farm, and coastline. As Maine grows in population, we have to start investing our transportation dollars in systems that will preserve these things and support access to transportation for all Mainers.

Right now, a majority of Mainers get around by driving. We all know that. And we know that there's a large minority that aren't served by this system, whether they are low income, too young to drive, disabled, or just unfairly impacted by the cost of car ownership.

That's now.

If you envision a future when climate or other circumstances bring another 500,000 or million people to Maine, we have a very different situation. If our only solution for growth is suburbs and highways, that is all we will have in our future.

New generations of Mainers deserve to have options to live in our town centers and cities, and not need to drive everywhere. The result will be more vibrant neighborhoods and villages, preservation of farms and forests, and families being able to spend more money and time on their families, and less on their commutes.

To do this, we need a transportation funding system that takes money where it can be collected (ie Tolls) and distributes into an equitable transportation system that is accountable to voters. I believe that the Department of Transportation, and associated regional entities are the right entity to decide how to spend our transportation dollars. That will ensure an equitable mix of highways, local roads as complete streets with trails, transit and bike routes.

We need to take Maine's transportation dollars and funding back into the hands of Maine people and our established governance processes. Highways are no longer the (sole) answer. We need to plan for a better future for Maine that upholds the values of community, equity, and preserving our rural economies.

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

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