



**Support of LD 1756: An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects**

**May 1, 2025**

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

My name is Andrew Zarro, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. We are a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to making Maine a safer, more accessible, and more equitable place to bike, walk, and roll. Our work takes us to every corner of the state, where we partner with municipalities, schools, and residents to develop transportation solutions that serve people of all ages and abilities. I am writing today in strong support of LD 1756.

This bill represents a meaningful step forward in how Maine evaluates and selects transportation projects. It introduces a transparent, data-driven process that will ensure public investments are aligned with the needs and priorities of Maine people. Too often, transportation decisions are made without clear accountability or attention to outcomes like safety, accessibility, and environmental impact. LD 1756 addresses this gap by requiring that new projects be evaluated using consistent and publicly available criteria, enabling the state to prioritize infrastructure that delivers the greatest public benefit.

From the perspective of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, this bill is particularly important because it has the potential to elevate the kinds of projects that make our communities safer and more connected. In our work across Maine, we hear repeatedly from residents and local leaders who want safer places to walk and bike, better transit access, and stronger links between downtowns, neighborhoods, and essential services. These are not fringe concerns. They are core components of a modern transportation system that supports economic vitality, public health, and environmental sustainability.

LD 1756 would provide a framework to ensure that these voices are reflected in state-level decision-making. It would incentivize the kinds of projects that improve safety for people walking and biking, reduce barriers to access, and build a more climate-resilient future. It would also help stretch taxpayer dollars by investing in projects that deliver long-term value rather than short-term political wins.

By aligning transportation investments with clear performance outcomes, Maine can better meet its mobility, climate, and equity goals. LD 1756 offers a proven, commonsense approach modeled on successful efforts in other states, and it comes at a time when public demand for transparency and accountability in government spending is higher than ever.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1756. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Zarro".

Andrew Zarro  
Executive Director  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine



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Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
LD 1756

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