

## **Ought to Pass**

### **Testimony on LD 1756, “An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects”**

Good afternoon, distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation. My name is James Tassé, and I am an active transportation consultant and the former assistant director and policy lead for the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. I am providing testimony in support of **LD 1756, “An Act to Require and Encourage Safe and Interconnected Transportation Construction Projects.”** I urge an “Ought to Pass” vote.

I have worked with the MaineDOT for a decade and a half, and I’m happy to note that the Department has improved the transparency of its processes with respect to project selection and funding over the last 15 years. Nonetheless, the process is still too opaque, and the public does not have a clear sense of how projects are selected or funded.

LD 1756 presents another opportunity for the state to improve on its delivery of transportation projects by pulling back the curtain on the project selection process and sharing the criteria that inform decisions about which projects get built. The bill, if it becomes law, will create an objective process to ensure that state dollars are being spent appropriately to serve the needs of Maine taxholders, without politics or other subjective factors influencing the decision.

This is not an untested idea. Virginia has had a similar process in place since 2017, and uses it to identify and fund transportation projects “based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers.”

Maine could benefit from a similar process. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1756.

Sincerely,

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LD 1756

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