



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Allison Hepler in support of*  
**LD 1141, An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations**  
*before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation*

Good afternoon, Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Allison Hepler, and I represent the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich. I am pleased to speak in support of **LD 1141, An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations.**

I'll be brief. I represent two beach State Parks – Reid and Popham – and both are down long peninsulas. Reid is reached through the bridged islands of Arrowsic and Georgetown on the east side of the Kennebec, and you can find Popham at the southern tip of Phippsburg on the west side of the Kennebec.

Route 127 and Route 209 are both busy roads even without the lure of the beaches, especially when Bath Iron Works changes shifts. The summer tourist traffic headed to the beaches makes both of these roads busier and riskier for drivers, and for bicyclists.

As the wonderful staff at the Maine Department of Transportation will attest, I am a frequent advocate for paved shoulders on these roads. I've seen bicyclists on both roads and worry a lot about them. Most bicyclists use the paved roadway when they can but the unpaved shoulders they sometimes need to use are often a few inches below the paved road surface, which can result in losing control of the bicycle.

This bill can create funding for a safer and certainly a more pleasant experience for bicyclists and for drivers. I can easily imagine that more people would choose to bicycle to the beach if there were shoulders or bicycle paths (my preference is shoulders), and that has environmental as well as cardiovascular benefits.

Thanks for your time, and happy to answer your questions.