



**Testimony of Maria Fuentes, Maine Better Transportation Association
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
In Support of**

L.D. 1457: Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones

April 23, 2025

Chairs Nangle and Crafts, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Maria Fuentes, a resident of Hallowell and am testifying today on behalf of the Maine Better Transportation Association in support of *LD 1457 – Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones*.

MBTA represents over 700 members who plan, design, build, maintain, or use our transportation system including transportation contractors, engineers and suppliers, bus and rail companies, airports, marine and port interests, municipalities and others committed to investing in our multimodal transportation infrastructure to boost the state's economy and quality of life.

We support LD 1457 for a singular reason: to save lives. In the last 12 years, there have been over 7,000 work zone crashes in Maine, resulting in 23 deaths and nearly 150 serious injuries.

Despite the work that agencies, municipalities, and the private sector have done to elevate awareness and bring attention to active work zones, drivers are still not slowing down.

PILOT PROGRAM

LD 1457 would create a pilot program at only three locations at a time statewide. It is limited to controlled access highways where speed limits are 45 MPH or higher. As written, the pilot would end in 2028 so that the Legislature can receive a report, gauge the effectiveness of the program, and determine if the state wants to pursue anything more permanent.

PRIVACY ISSUES

The way the bill is structured, there are strong privacy protections, with no personal data shared. The sole reason to have cameras is to capture speeding violations, and there would be a great deal of oversight over the hardware used and management of this pilot.

WHAT LD 1457 IS NOT

While some may see this as an attempt to generate revenue, that is not the intent of the bill. It is about saving lives and reducing accidents and injuries to workers on construction sites, as well as to those who travel through work zones. Any work zone using the system would be required to have advance signage and public notice to alert drivers ahead of time.

To sum, there are already 14 states using similar programs, with positive results, and we hope the Committee will seriously look at the bill, amend it in any way you believe would improve it, and approve a pilot program. We believe having speed safety camera enforcement will save lives and reduce injuries on construction zones, as other states have seen. Thank you for your attention, and for the important work you do.