



Stacy Brenner
Senator, District 30

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Stacy Brenner introducing
**LD 1138, An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in
Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

May 1, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and fellow members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Stacy Brenner, and I represent Senate District 30, which includes most of Scarborough and all of Gorham. I am here today to introduce **LD 1138**, "*An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation*."

When I served on the Maine Climate Council, I had the privilege of working closely with communities, businesses, scientists, and citizens to create the Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan. One of the clear takeaways from that work is that if we are serious about reaching our climate goals, every sector — including transportation — needs to be part of the solution.

According to the Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan, Transportation accounts for almost half and is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maine. Yet today, decisions about major transportation projects — especially those that expand road capacity — are not always evaluated for how they impact our climate commitments.

LD 1138 seeks to change that, in a thoughtful and practical way. This bill seeks to do three important things:

- 1. It requires MainedOT to evaluate capacity expansion projects for their potential to increase transportation-sector greenhouse gas emissions.**
- 2. It calls for dedicated planning to achieve our transportation related climate goals with a built-in public engagement process to ensure Mainers have a voice in these decisions.**
- 3. It sets transportation-sector greenhouse gas reduction targets that help guide planning — aligning major transportation investments with the goals outlined in Maine Won't Wait.**



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Since the bill was introduced, I've worked closely with MaineDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection to make sure the bill is workable and respectful of agency expertise. Based on their feedback, I am offering a sponsor's amendment today that makes several important adjustments:

- First, the amendment tightens the definition of "capacity expansion project" to focus specifically on expansions of road capacity. This is so that normal maintenance, repair, and safety projects are not swept into the process.
- Second, it removes the requirement to establish a new Technical Committee. Instead, MaineDOT will lead the evaluation work, with a requirement that they build in meaningful opportunities for public engagement.
- Third, it changes the transportation sector greenhouse gas limits into non-binding targets. This allows MaineDOT and DEP to plan responsibly toward emission reductions, without setting up unrealistic legal liabilities if targets are not fully met.

In short, LD 1138, as amended, asks us to make informed, transparent choices about how we invest in transportation infrastructure — choices that recognize both today's needs and tomorrow's challenges. Responding to climate change is imperative, but it does not have to be a sacrifice. This legislation seeks to achieve our climate goals by reducing vehicle traffic and investing in other modes of transportation such as public transit and safe walking and biking infrastructure that will benefit local economies, improve public health, increase community safety, and lower transportation cost burdens for Maine families.

The bill has support from environmental and climate organizations, conservationists, and many members of the public who understand that intentional transportation planning is key to a resilient and prosperous Maine.

I believe this legislation strikes a strong balance. It advances our climate goals, respects the work of our agencies, supports public involvement, and ensures that future generations will inherit a Maine we can be proud of. I respectfully urge you to support LD 1138 along with the sponsor amendment.

Thank you very much for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Stacy Brenner
State Senator, District 30