

Amy Johnson  
Portland  
LD 1634

Dear Sen. Chipman, Rep. Williams, and esteemed members of the Transportation Committee,

I am testifying in support of LD 1634. I am a resident of Portland, and live on the northern edge of town where route 100 transitions from a 40 mph road to a residential area. I recently had the experience of following along and observing as a developer worked through the process of designing a new housing project on city-owned land, of which I am an abutter. The project is desperately needed and hits all the key goals -- public transportation available, public water and sewer nearby, in a designated growth area. It was amazing to me to hear, time and time again, the issue of traffic raised in discussions.

This was clearly a situation where the challenges of traffic control presented a real obstacle for both design and public input. Yet rather than focusing on changing the constraint -- i.e. the speed limit along this stretch of road -- the conversations reverted back to design changes to react to traffic. The tail wagged the dog. I am not the developer, but it seemed obvious to me that this process could have been smoother if those involved had a measure of confidence that the speed limit was a variable that could be changed by the city in the interest of the overall good.

This is a reasonable measure that allows municipalities greater local control without mandating that they do so. If a town feels that they do not have expertise to anticipate the effects of a change, they can defer to MDOT as they do now. This change would empower municipalities and streamline reviews when appropriate.

Please support LD 1634.

Sincerely,  
Amy Johnson  
Portland