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Portland
LD 1634

Please pass LD 1634. Our communities need to be able to set speed limits themselves without red tape and bureaucracy getting in the way. Our family lives on a residential street in Portland and we regularly have automobile accidents because vehicles are traveling far too fast. But our city government is unable to address this issue because as the law is currently structured: only the DOT can set speed limits.

Here are some benefits that this act would create:

Transportation Safety and Choice: Maine people love to walk and bike, but increasingly people feel unsafe on our roads. If we want to increase transportation choice, we must make our roads safer for everyone.

Fiscal health: This bill will lead to slower speeds in areas where people live and run businesses, increasing real estate values and retail activity, directly increasing local tax base.

Economic Development: This bill will allow municipalities to slow vehicle speeds in downtowns and village centers, where it is critical for people to feel safe and comfortable walking in order to conveniently and efficiently access shops and businesses. Data shows slower safer streets increase retail sales, economic activity, and investment.

Quality of Life: Safe streets are a critical factor for enabling Mainers to be physically active and socially connected in their communities.

Climate Action: Slowing traffic in activity centers enables more people to walk, bike, and roll for day-to-day trips, which reduces vehicle miles traveled.

Equity: Slower speeds are key to making streets feel safe and inviting for more people who walk, bike, and use mobility devices, which is critical for people who lack the option of driving.