

Roberta Boczkiewicz  
Castine  
LD 1451

Testimony of Roberta Boczkiewicz, resident of Castine.

Supporting: LD 1451 An Act to Advance Coordination of Community Transportation  
– Sponsored by Senator Mike Tipping  
April 23, 2025

Senator Nagle, Representative Crafts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation,

My name is Roberta Boczkiewicz, and I am a resident of Castine. I support LD 1451 and appreciate Senator Tipping and the cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward.

Castine is one of the rural coastal towns that is at the end of the road, and we have several older residents who no longer drive and have difficulty getting to medical appointments, the grocery store, the pharmacy, post-surgical rehab appointments and other needs.

Over ten years ago, our oldest resident (who is now 105) took it upon herself to put together a volunteer driver service called At Home Downeast for older residents. That quickly led us to understand that the need is much greater than we thought. The At Home Downeast model allows older residents to pay a monthly fee – which is used to pay an administrator who organizes rides from a pool of volunteers. The monthly fee provides 4 rides each month. The model has been a saving grace for many of our residents but leaves behind those who are unable to pay and those who are under 65. Those residents have to try to navigate other ride options, often wasting hours investigating groups only to find that they do not meet the guidelines or offer the services needed.

We are also a college town hosting 900+ students that attend the Maine Maritime Academy each year. Most of the younger students do not have vehicles and often need to get to Bucksport or Blue Hill for shopping, pharmacies, and other needs. We have a couple of loosely organized people who give the students rides to the airport for vacations, but a more robust transit solution for the Blue Hill Peninsula would be the best option for all.

A Mobility Manager would be able to bring all the transportation options together, discuss what needs are unmet, create solutions for those needs and act as a one stop for anyone who has transportation needs. This position would end frustration among those searching for options by matching them with the best option or creating a new solution that will serve multiple needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Roberta Boczkiewicz