

Letter of 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

Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of the rural town of New Gloucester, Maine. I am writing in support of the proposed pilot program for Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones. Our town is a small rural town that serves as a connector between many larger towns. The roads were designed for a time when cars were slower and there were many fewer cars on the road. We have a lot of commuter traffic where the speed limit is routinely violated and where it is dangerous for walkers, bikers, and others (those with strollers) to travel safely on the side of roads in our town.

The state desperately needs to address speeding and near crashes and fatalities in rural areas and on rural roads. Our volunteer group, Building Livability in New Gloucester, has been working to identify ways to calm traffic and make roads safer for all. This proposed pilot project could be an important first small step in calming and slowing traffic – starting in Highway Work Zones. Information from such a project could inform longer term and wider efforts to enforce speed limits in other areas. It could also serve to start a broader conversation with both rural and urban communities on ways to make our roads safer for all.

In some states, Automated Speed Control Systems are allowed in limited areas (e.g. school districts) or by ordinance for individual towns. In any event, we need a broad-based discussion of options and a pilot project provides an opportunity to test out one such option on a small scale.

I urge you to vote in support of this pilot.

Julie Fralich

New Gloucester, Maine