



## Talking With Your Legislator About Statewide Bike/Ped Issues

### Step 1. Find Your State Representative and State Senator here:

[http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup\\_voter\\_info](http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/lookup_voter_info)

**Step 2. Call and/or email your State Reps.** Here's a brief script outline with the specific requests to make.

1. Introduce yourself, explain why you are calling, and how you are involved in local bike/ped work.
2. Ask them if they are aware of bike/ped issues in the state, and tell them you're calling to talk about three specific items.
3. Be clear about your three requests:
  - a. Please Support LD 193 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects. This bill is sponsored by Senator Cathy Breen of Falmouth.
  - b. Please Support LR 1066 - An Act To Improve Safety and Clarify Responsibilities of Pedestrians and Bicyclists. This bill is sponsored by Senator Amy Volk of Scarborough. It is not yet printed yet or scheduled for a hearing.
  - c. Please join the Bike/Ped Caucus. This is a casual brown-bag meeting of interested legislators. The next meeting is Thursday April 2nd. They can contact Representative Deane Rykerson (Kittery) for more information.
4. See talking points below for help engaging your legislator on these points.
5. Offer to email BCM's fact sheets about the two bills.

### Step 3. Tell Us About your Conversation

1. Contact Abby at BCM if they have additional questions you couldn't answer. ([abby@bikemaine.org](mailto:abby@bikemaine.org) or 207-956-6538)
2. Send us a report on your conversations by using this form: <http://tinyurl.com/contactyourlegislators> or contacting Abby at BCM.

## **Talking Points For LD 193 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**

- **WHAT** does this bill do? It funds 39 backlogged bike/ped infrastructure projects like sidewalks, bike paths, and multi-use trails.
- **HOW** does it do it? This bill would issue a transportation bond that would devote \$10.7 million to the Maine DOT for pedestrian and bicycle transportation infrastructure projects that have already been approved but continue to await funding.
- **WHY** is this important?
  - **JOBS.** Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects create jobs in Maine. Building biking and walking infrastructure creates more jobs for Mainers than projects for cars alone.
  - **SAFETY.** More people are choosing to bike and walk – they need safe places to do so. Over 1,300 pedestrians and over 1,000 bicyclists were hit by cars in Maine from 2009 - 2013. Sidewalks, multi-use paths, and similar facilities improve safety for all users.
  - **ACCESS.** Mainers need access to alternative transportation. Young people are driving less, and a growing portion of Maine’s older population never drives.

## **Talking Points for LR 1066 - An Act To Improve Safety and Clarify Responsibilities of Pedestrians and Bicyclists**

- **WHAT** does this bill do? LR 1066 does three things:
  - It makes crossing the street safer by requiring drivers to stop, not just yield, for people in the crosswalk or intending to cross.
  - It makes it easier for police officers to issue tickets to bicyclists who ride unsafely, particularly when they run a red light or stop sign, ride against traffic, or fail to yield to pedestrians. (When bicyclists disobey traffic laws it makes the streets more dangerous for everyone.)
  - It Protects Vulnerable Users (pedestrians, wheelchair users, bicyclists, construction workers, farm workers, and motorcyclists). This bill requires Drivers’ Ed classes to address this topic and it outlines consequences for drivers who hit and injure or kill vulnerable users.
- **WHY** is this important? **SAFETY.**
  - More people are choosing to bike and walk – they need streets that are safe for these activities.
  - Over 1,300 pedestrians and over 1,000 bicyclists were hit by cars in Maine from 2009 - 2013.
  - Of those hit in that five-year period, 55 pedestrians and 6 bicyclists were killed.
  - In 2014 alone, 12 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists were killed.
  - On average, over 25% of pedestrians that are hit by cars in Maine are hit while crossing the street in a marked crosswalk or crossing with the signal at an intersection.
  - Anyone who is using the road, but not in a car, is more likely than car drivers to be injured or killed if they are involved in a crash.