



December 12, 2012

## Working with your Legislators to Make your Community more Bike/Ped Friendly Community Spokes Assignment

### 1. Who are your legislators?

Maine State Legislature website: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/>  
(not all up to date yet. Look for 126<sup>th</sup> session. Check back after Jan 1)

Info on Senators: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Senator-Information.html>  
See "Senator Email List (Excel)"

Info on Representatives: <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/hbiolist.htm>

Who represents me in Augusta?

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

Type in your city, street number and name, submit, click on the "Elected Officials" tab. (Not up to date yet)

### 2. How do I contact them?

"Communicating with your Legislator": <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/callleg.htm>

This lists the telephone numbers at the State House. You probably won't reach the actual legislator, but a note will be created and tallied for each call and transferred to the legislator.

Once all the contact information is updated on the website, their personal email addresses, and home and cell phone numbers will be posted. Feel free to call them on their home numbers, where you are more likely to connect with your legislator.

### 3. Start the relationship

- Call/email your legislator to set up a meeting.
  - During the meeting, tell your legislator that you feel strongly about bicycle and pedestrian issues and why (e.g., you ride for recreation/transportation/fitness/fun and want to feel safe)
  - Mention what you think is the most important benefit of making your town more bike/ped friendly (e.g., transportation, health, more liveable communities, environment, economic development, etc)
  - **ASK** your legislator if (s)he can represent your interests in Augusta
  - **ASK** your legislator if (s)he knows other legislators AND constituents that might be interested in joining you in your work
4. **Periodically (every month or 2) check in** with your legislator to keep them posted on what you're doing or have done. Ask if (s)he has advise or knows people who can help.
  5. **ASK** your legislator if (s)he can **join the Bike Caucus**
  6. **ASK** your legislator to **support the biking bill** (more info to come on specifics)
  7. **ASK** your legislator to **participate in the "Legislative Ride"** in the spring (more info to come)
  8. **If your legislator is on the Transportation Committee**, they will have extra influence and your relationship with them will be more important.