



Why Maine Needs to Provide Traffic Safety Education in Its Schools

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is supporting the Act to Provide Traffic Safety Education in Maine Schools, also known as the Traffic Safety Education Act.

The purpose of the Traffic Safety Act is to provide students in Maine with access to traffic safety education from an early age with the goal of teaching students safe practices and respect for all users of the road. The long-term goal is to reduce the unacceptable number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and make Maine's roadways safer and more enjoyable for all users.

It Will Save Lives.

Bicycle, pedestrian and other traffic deaths and serious injuries are on the rise in Maine, and many of these tragedies could have been avoided by following some basic rules about road safety.

It Will Save Money.

Fewer crashes means fewer deaths and injuries and fewer public dollars being spent on fire and rescue crews. Fewer crashes means less litigation and burden on the court system. And education is a far less expensive safety intervention that re-engineering and rebuilding roads to protect vulnerable users.

It Will Clarify the Rules.

There is no system in place to make sure that people know and understand the basic principles of traffic safety. Telling children to “be careful” and “look both ways” is not enough to keep them safe—we need to present key lessons so that road users now and in the future know the rules and expectations for safe driving, riding and walking.

It Won't Be Expensive.

Using the BCM's traffic safety curriculum teachers can prepare and provide their own one-hour lesson on road safety. Or schools can opt to have one of Maine's many bicycle and pedestrian safety educators come and make a presentation to provide age appropriate content to different grade levels.

It Supports Health, the Environment, and Transportation Choice.

Providing basic traffic safety education in schools will create a generation of Mainers that knows how to be safe while using roadways to walk and bike for health, environmental protection, or as their choice for basic transportation.



How You Can Help Pass the Traffic Safety Education Act of 2017

Know what we're trying to do.

Join our advocacy mailing list by contacting Sam Herr (sam@bikemaine.org) so we can keep you up to date with what's happening and what's needed.

Share our informational posts on your social media channels.

The bigger the network we can mobilize, the more compelling we will be!

Consider testifying on the Traffic Safety Education Act's behalf, or recruit people (especially teachers) to testify.

Take the opportunity to tell the legislature directly why you think this will be of benefit to Maine. The legislature will need to hear from teachers who will describe why this Act will not be burdensome.

Write a letter supporting the bill to send to a local newspaper.

Make your opinions public! We're happy to help with some templates.

Contact your legislators and ask them to support/sponsor the Act.

It's easy to find your legislator—just visit <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm> and search by your town. A phone call makes a big impression! Or set up a coffee meeting.

Join Us at Traffic Safety Day at the Capitol, April 5.

BCM will be coordinating a Traffic Safety Day at the Capital from 9-12 on Wednesday April 5, providing you with some training and an opportunity to meet with your legislator right after a session. It's a fun and empowering event!

Become a BCM Community Spoke, May 3 Join the ranks of over 100 trained community leaders who work to make Maine a better place to bike and walk at the local level. Next all-day training is Wednesday, May 3. To learn more, contact Sam Herr (sam@bikemaine.org).

Join Us at the Legislators Walk and Ride Day, May 10.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine will be coordinating a Bike and Walk at the Capital on Wednesday, May 10. Join in on an easy 5 mile ride or a 1 mile walk led by people who can talk about safe roadway conditions. Details coming soon!

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