



**BICYCLE  
COALITION  
OF MAINE**

## **2022 Candidate Questionnaire - Active Transportation**

Maine residents throughout the state should all have access to safe places to bike and walk for work, school, recreation, or transportation. Currently, many people report that they do not feel safe walking and biking on Maine's roadways. By providing more active transportation (especially bicycle and pedestrian) facilities, we make every street safer for all users and create vibrant communities.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) invites you to share your position on issues related to making Maine a better and safer place to bike and walk. Your answers will be made public so voters can better understand your position on active transportation.

**Candidate Name**

Barry Powers

**Candidate Office**

State Rep

**Town/District**

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**Do you think active transportation should be a priority for the state?**

Yes

**Why do you think active transportation should/should not be a priority for the state?**

Active transportation will connect communities in new more, personal ways. It will reduce congestion and carbon emissions. It will promote a healthy lifestyle and offer new opportunities for growth in businesses along the transportation arteries.

**Do you agree that Complete Streets (a design philosophy that provides safe accommodations for all users based on the context of the street) is the approach Maine needs to take when designing and reconstructing roads, even if it means prioritizing people walking or biking in certain contexts?**

Yes

**Do you support increasing funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, even if it means deferring some motorist roadway projects?**

Yes

**The number of pedestrian fatalities in Maine doubled in 2021 compared to 2020, and eight pedestrians and one cyclist have died on Maine roads in 2022 to-date (August). What will you do to make our streets measurably safer for people biking, walking, and using wheelchairs?**

Promote development of bike lanes, develop and promote routing that has low impact on motorized transportation. Increase signage that promotes safe driving in conjunction with active transportation.

**How would you support transportation options for the 24% of Mainers who don't or can't drive?**

I would help eliminate or reduce regulations that stand in the way of active transportation projects. I would insure that a portion of the state's budget would have active transportation as a goal not an afterthought.

**Forty years ago, more than 60% of school children in the US walked or rode a bicycle to school. Today, that figure is less than 10%. This decline in bicycling and walking and physical activity in general has been mirrored by dramatic increases in negative health impacts for kids. What would you do to reverse this trend?**

Allow students to substitute physical education requirements with active transportation. Assist non-profits that promote events encouraging healthy lifestyles and look to create more bicycle and foot powered races and charity events that focus on youth participation..

**When was the last time you rode a bike?**

Within the last week

**Do you walk?**

For errands;For health/recreation

**Is there anything else you would like to share about active transportation in Maine?**

With all of the unused railway throughout the state we, in Maine, have a unique opportunity to create healthy activities that capitalize on the natural beauty of Maine. If we are successful in creating a more robust active transportation network, we will also be able to attract new businesses and a younger workforce.