



April 6, 2021

**Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 806 - An Act To Clarify That Municipal Officers May Accept a Proposed, Unaccepted Way for Pedestrian, Bicycle and Other Nonmotorized Use**

Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Angela King, and this testimony is on behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine is the statewide organization that advocates for bicyclists and pedestrians. We work to make Maine better for bicycling and walking, and to protect the safety and rights of vulnerable users of the public ways.

The Bicycle Coalition supports LD 806 which clarifies that town or city officials can make the decision to open unaccepted ways – more commonly known as paper streets – to the public for walking, biking and other non-motorized use.

These pathways are assets to communities, providing access to more public green space, the importance of which has been highlighted during COVID-19. Access to outdoor space where people can walk, and roll makes communities healthier and happier. Opening these unaccepted ways/ paper streets will increase the connectivity of an area and create connections in some places by making more destinations safely accessible on foot or on bike. Studies have shown that more people will choose to walk or bike than drive when they feel safe doing so. Active transportation benefits both public health and environmental health, so these are great opportunities to create more ways for people to get around safely without automobile traffic.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to support, and vote to pass LD 806.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to the state.

On behalf of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine,

Angela King  
Advocacy Manager