**Green, Chris**

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**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2009 10:21 AM
**To:** Strand, CJ
**Cc:** Futtner, Edwina; thomas.j.kehoe@cga.ct.gov
**Subject:** Trans. Committee Testimony for 3.11.09 hearing
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up
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This is testimony in support of Complete Streets legislation (SB 735), which requires that any funds received by ConnDOT or municipality for "the construction, resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation or relocation of highways, roads or streets, a reasonable amount shall be expended to provide facilities for all users including, but not limited to, bikeways and sidewalks with appropriate curb cuts and ramps." The legislation also requires that at least one percent of these funds (and 25% of certain federal grants) be dedicated to bike, pedestrian, and transit access projects.

As an almost daily bicycle commuter (Hamden to New Haven and other nearby towns) for the past 21 years, I believe this legislation would go a long way toward protecting my right to use my "vehicle" (my bike) safely on city and town streets. Currently, for the most part cyclists are relegated to the edges of roads -- the law says we should ride as far to the right "as practicable," but it's often not practicable to ride on the right, what with potholes and other detritus, and cars passing much closer than the three feet mandated by the law passed last year. We are allowed to "take the lane," but that's also taking our life in our hands. As both cyclists and pedestrians, we need our own space in the public sphere!

Thanks to the legislators who are championing this bill, and I urge the House and Senate to support it.

Sincerely,

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