

## Neeley, Nick

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**From:** W. Bosenberg and D. Thibodeau <bosenberg.thibodeau@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 03, 2014 2:21 PM  
**To:** Neeley, Nick; bikewalkct@bikewalkct.org  
**Subject:** Please Support SB 336, the Vulnerable User Bill

To the Transportation Committee:

Please support SB 336, the Vulnerable User Bill, on March 5.

For a safer, more walkable/bikeable Connecticut, I urge you to support and bring to vote the Vulnerable User Bill, SB 336.

As the Safe Routes to School Coordinator at Latimer Lane Elementary School in Simsbury, I am encouraging families to choose active transportation, to walk or bike to school, when circumstances allow (appropriate distance, safe route, schedule, etc.) Our first priority is safety – children must have a safe route to school. In order to achieve this, children and the community in which they will be walking or biking must, at minimum, be educated about pedestrian and bike safety, and the rules of sharing the road. Passing a Vulnerable User Bill will hold drivers accountable when they don't safely share the road, impairing the safety of children and other vulnerable users of public roads.

Safe Routes to School programs emphasize the importance of physical activity among children, while raising awareness of the environmental impact of our transportation choices. But supporting walking and biking is good for all of us in Connecticut because it means supporting healthy lifestyles and a healthy earth. In the 2009 Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1390&q=259656>), the Connecticut DOT discusses how walking and biking provide great value to the quality of life and travel in Connecticut, with many positive effects in the areas of air quality, public health, transportation, and recreation. In fact, the mission for bicycle and pedestrian planning in Connecticut is said to be "To encourage and promote bicycling and walking throughout Connecticut by providing for the safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of these modes of transportation."

If Connecticut is going to be serious about encouraging active transportation, It is not too much to demand that motorists use care around vulnerable road users. A serious penalty for motorists whose carelessness results in injury or death of a vulnerable road user shows that Connecticut values the lives and safety of all road users.

I encourage you to support walking and biking in Connecticut by passing the Vulnerable User Bill 336 this legislative session.

Respectfully,

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