

To: FINtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Please support HB 6840 and bike and pedestrian funding

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

I have been a resident of Milford CT for 55 years. About three years ago, I made a sensible decision to adopt a greener life-style in an effort to promote a cleaner environment for our future.

Changing my weekly commute to work and local businesses, I have switched from driving a car 30 + mi/day to bicycling from my home to the Milford train station and riding the train to Fairfield, CT. During inclement weather, it can be difficult to bike to the train station, so I drive a smaller fuel-efficient car to the train.

In addition, I have joined and participated in CT Rides program, and during a three year period alone, have realized significant emissions saving impacts that we can achieve together for a cleaner / greener earth.

As you may not know, riding a bike along local town and CT State roadways presents a significant safety risk to one's health and well-being. Although sidewalks / crosswalks are not intended for bicyclist, I have seen many bicyclist resorting to these sidewalks because they fear of being hit by motorists if they navigate their bikes along the roadway.

Currently, Milford's roadways do not have adequate bike lanes, specifically along the Boston Post road (route 1). Lack of adequately planned bike lanes effects bicycle travel, creating dangerous conditions for bicyclists at times, especially from the I-95 interstate merge, past the Westfield shopping mall, all the way to West Haven, CT. I have been cutoff and almost hit by motorists several times along the route 1 roadway during my daily commute.

As a resident member of Bike Walk Connecticut, I support the Governor's proposals to develop and fund a first-rate active transportation network of bike lanes, greenways, multiuse paths, and pedestrian infrastructure in Connecticut. Please support HB 6840.

- Biking, utilizing trains and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, we must realize / understand that biking and walking are by far the greener ways to get around. Efficient safe, active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennia's or the creative class have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring

millennia's and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bike able places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Thank you
Bob Worobel