

To the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

As a 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 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 — I know I don't. Build them and people will use them.
- We need to reduce our carbon footprint, and this is one action that we can take toward that goal. Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- I have a millennial age daughter, now a nurse at Hartford Hospital — and bicycling is important to her. But she doesn't feel safe bicycling even in West Hartford. Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class have in mind. A well-designed active transportation network will help bring these folks to Connecticut and keep them here, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy. Actually, bicycling benefits folks of all ages: I am now retired, and would like to be able to bicycle for errands, socially (visiting friends, going to restaurants), and recreationally, the way everyone did when I lived in Germany during the mid 1980s, even the gray-haired elders on their "tricycles." So it might not be just the younger folks who "vote with their feet" and leave Connecticut, due in part to the absence of safe and pleasant walkable and bicycling infrastructures and attitudes.

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

Thank you.  
Dr. Jaen Andrews