

February 10, 2015

Dear Transportation Committee, Senator Witkos, and Representative Hampton:

For a safer, more walkable/bikeable Connecticut, I urge you to support SB 502, *AN ACT CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS*.

As a Simsbury resident, active member of Simsbury's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, local Safe Routes to School coordinator, and cyclist (60% recreation, 40% transportation), I see many gaps in current legislation/regulations as it pertains to bicyclist safety, motorist-cyclist interactions on our roadways, and implementation of Complete Streets. For example, many cyclists and motors have questions about safe passing but current law provides limited details. In our community, we have data indicating that residents' perception of unsafe road conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians is a significant barrier to children walking and biking to school and to adults walking/biking to work, shop, and play. Yet options for communities to develop modern, safe bike infrastructure is sometimes limited by current CT DOT standards that have not kept up with design/engineering options.

It is time for the Department of Transportation to develop and update guidance and standards for safer sharing of our roadways especially between bicyclists and motors, modern bike infrastructure, and Complete Streets so that bicycling becomes a safer transportation option and our bike/pedestrian infrastructure can grow. This is extremely important because transportation trends are moving towards increased options for multimodal transportation, cycling and walking. Supporting walking and biking is good for all of us in Connecticut because it means supporting healthy lifestyles and a healthy earth. Supporting safe walking and biking is also good for local economies and makes communities more attractive to the growing number of people who want to commute without a car. It also makes communities more livable for individuals who do not own a car (access to jobs, healthcare, shopping, etc.) Bicycling is so much more than just a sport for the affluent. It is a healthy form of recreation and transportation for children, teens, adults, and seniors of all economic backgrounds.

For a safer, more walkable/bikeable Connecticut for residents of all ages, I urge you to support SB 502, *AN ACT CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS*.

Respectfully,

Deborah Thibodeau  
5 Woodcliff Dr.  
Simsbury, CT 06070  
860-658-9032