

Testimony regarding SB502, An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety and Transportation Options

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Submitted by: Debra Dauphinais, 860-633-6512

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am a member of the State of Connecticut Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board but am testifying as a private citizen today. I am an active cyclist and often use my bicycle for transportation to and from work and for other errands. Bicycling is a healthy, economical, and environmentally-friendly alternative to driving. I appreciate the support that the Transportation Committee and the CT Department of Transportation have demonstrated over the past years, as we work towards a culture and reality of complete streets. I look forward to our state continuing to move forward in this direction.

In doing so, I ask that we move forward in the following:

- 1) Clarifying current statutory language regarding passing of slow moving vehicles. Currently, there are differing views about whether or not it is legal and permissible for a motor vehicle to cross a double yellow line when passing a slow moving vehicle. It is important that motorists obey the 3-foot passing law. On some narrow roads, it is difficult or even impossible to provide 3 feet clearance without crossing the double yellow line, and some motorists are hesitant to do so, even when it is safe, because they are concerned about breaking the law. I ask that we clarify that it is permissible to cross the double yellow line when passing a slow moving vehicle when it is safe to do so.
- 2) Update the CTDOT highway design manual to incorporate CT's complete streets statutory requirements by June 16, 2016. This manual guides much of the work of DOT, but it does not yet reflect much of the complete streets requirements. Updating this manual on a timely basis will allow improvements to our transportation infrastructure to take place sooner rather than later.
- 3) Clarify the statutes to make clear that bicyclists do not need to hug the right edge of the road, as it is often unsafe to do so. In order to do so, it is important to explicitly state that cyclists may use the full lane when the lane is too narrow for a bicyclist and motorist to safely share otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Dauphinais