

Testimony by Holly Parker In Support of
SB 502: AN ACT CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
And
6368: AN ACT ALLOWING TOWNS TO ESTABLISH TWO-WAY PROTECTED BICYCLE
LANES

Committee on Transportation
February 11, 2015
Submitted by Holly Parker

Distinguished Members of the Committee on Transportation:

I have been working in the field of sustainable transportation for over 18 years, and the most common argument I hear against biking and walking is, "it's not safe." This is because city planning to date has prioritized access by car, and yet the most sustainable transportation modes are bicycling and walking. Unlike motorized vehicles, they create no greenhouse gas emissions.

I work in New Haven, which is out of compliance for 2 of 6 criteria air pollutants tracked by the EPA. Further, New Haven commuters spend on average 28.5 hours per year stuck in traffic. If ever there was a time to improve bicyclist safety and transportation options in our state and implement complete streets policy, it is now!

The City of New Haven's Complete Streets Design Manual, passed unanimously by its Board of Aldermen, specifies creation of a policy requiring the accommodation, safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system using a hierarchy of users, which begins with pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

Prioritizing pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users—who are also pedestrians for part of each trip—in planning efforts will encourage more cycling and walking in communities throughout our state. The benefits of which include improved air quality for local residents, health impacts including but not limited to reductions in obesity and asthma, and reduced traffic congestion.

For the reasons above, I support Bills SB 502 and 6368.

I would also like to express approval of the language proposed by BikeWalkCT for Proposed Bill 502, to clarify the ambiguity in Sec. 14-286.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Parker

Citizen of Coventry, CT
February 11, 2015