

Dear Transportation Committee,

I, unlike most people in Connecticut am a young person.

I moved from my home state to the State of Connecticut for economic opportunity. I currently live in New Haven in a neighborhood that is walkable and bikable, meaning I can get to points of interest just by walking or biking.

This factor was the most important factor in choosing my home in Connecticut. Cars are expensive. If I can live some place where I don't need to frequently use a car, this is the kind of community that I want to be a part of. I can get exercise, I can get to know my neighbors and my community, and I can save money.

Simply put: millennials don't want to drive. Right now Connecticut as a state is losing its best and brightest to New York and Boston. What is it doing to keep the best and brightest here in Connecticut?

Walkable and bikable neighborhoods are essential for the future of Connecticut towns' local economies. As said by Jeff Speck in his book, Walkable City, "almost 85 percent of money expended on cars and gas leaves the local economy." People on foot and on bikes put money into the local economy, under the very clear logic of: well, where else are they going to spend their money? Walkable and bikable cities encourage people to spend time and their money in their own community.

Also, as a state, Connecticut has a congestion issue that endangers the states future prosperity, vitality and quality of life. The state can help people make the decision to walk or bike an easier decision, by providing the funding for bike and pedestrian projects. As said by Former Portland Bicycle Program Manager, Mia Birk: "People will not drive into the river where no bridge exists, wait by the side of the road for a nonexistent bus or walk on streets lacking sidewalks. Similarly, few people will bike where no bikeways exist."

So for the sake of Connecticut's local economies, economic future and its environmental sustainability, please support this bill.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Coby Zelfman