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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. These facilities cost a fraction of the amount necessary to build and maintain roads. At Bike Walk CT's Annual Summit last Friday, Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator for the City of Portland, OR told the audience that **to re-build Portland's network of 300 miles of bike path would cost the same amount of money it costs to build one mile of highway**. Geller also informed the assembled crowd that *people who walk and bicycle save \$0.25 to \$1.00 in health care costs per mile traveled*. As a taxpaying resident of CT, I appeal to you to **bring a greater level of parity to our transportation investments by mode because:**

- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- People want to bike and walk more, but many don't feel safe without bike lanes, greenways and sidewalks. Build them and people will use them.
- Transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut. Consider that ***biking and walking provide emission-free mobility*** for people of all economic classes. Active transportation must be a key piece of our climate action plan.
- Connecticut's car-dependent lifestyle is not the lifestyle that millennials or the creative class desire. **A well-designed active transportation network will help bring millennials and the creative class to Connecticut and keep them here**, strengthening our economy. Additionally, walkable, bikeable places will boost tourism immeasurably.

Please support HB 6840. The results will ripple positively throughout our state's economy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Holly Parker