

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. Please support HB 6840.

- I live on Route 75 (a state road) in Windsor. Most of this roadway has no sidewalks, none of it has a bike lane. I enjoy running, walking and biking. I wish I could feel more safe when I do these activities. I work in Hartford and bike to work as much as I can.
- I do not feel comfortable allowing my kids to bike on their own because of the lack of safe bike lanes. I wish that when my kids are adults, they will think it is weird and unusual to see a road without a bike lane and sidewalk.
- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy.
- Bike lanes, sidewalks and greenways cost a fraction of what it costs to build and maintain roads. 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.
- Since transportation is the biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Connecticut, consider that biking and walking couldn't be greener ways to get around. 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 have in mind. 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 would boost tourism immeasurably, with benefits spreading throughout our economy.

For so many reasons, it's time for Connecticut to become a great place to bike and walk. Please support HB 6840.

Sincerely, Meg Harvey, Windsor CT