

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.**

- Biking and walking are cost-effective ways to reduce traffic congestion, and they're good for the environment, our health, and our economy. *Stamford roads are VERY congested. I am a bike commuter within Stamford because it is the most cost effective, sustainable and fastest way to get from my home to work and back. That being said, it is a very dangerous endeavor on many of the roadways. There are no bike lanes on the roads that I use (which are mostly main roads) and the cars do not respect cyclists. The pot holes and debris on the roadways are another story all together.*
- 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. *there are certain roads that while they would be a faster route to work, I do not use them because the congestion of cars is too high and I feel as though it is not the safest way to ride.*
- 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. *Now that more and more young adults are moving into Stamford, there are more people walking and cycling in town therefore an even higher demand of this support is needed.*

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

Thank you.

Rebecca Sullivan