

Testimony re: Senate Bill SB502

This bill is far from perfect, but it is an important start, and I urge Senate passage. I will continue to advocate for future improvements.

We citizens of Connecticut need better cycling infrastructure. Make no mistake; I own a car and drive it as needed, so I am not anti-auto. But I have become a more committed casual cyclist who sees the bike as a legitimate form of transportation. I use my bike to run shopping errands, visit friends and coffee shops, or to get to doctors appointments. I have evolved into this from long distance touring on a road bicycle, then commuting to work on a comfort bicycle, which I still use in the winter, and switch to a folding bike in summer. During this evolution, I discovered the need for formal training to become a better on-road cyclist and did so through the League of American Bicyclist Bike Smart program. Eager to pass along the excellent stuff I had learned, I trained to become a League Cycling Instructor and I have been part of several Bike Smart classes around the state. Cycling on the road is serious business, and we train folks to understand that they are "drivers of vehicles", just lighter and slower vehicles than what is beside them as they cycle in traffic. I know there is safety in numbers; the more cyclists, the safer we will all be, motorists and cyclists alike. But, I have come to believe that for a majority of people, cycling on the road is uncomfortable, unpleasant, and feels downright unsafe. We can only change that by improving facilities for cycling. The roads we cycle on are huge investments that cyclists and motorists alike have paid for; they are for all users, but it will take more bills like this one to get us to that point of equality.

It's not a perfect piece of legislation, but it's the best we have. Do your part to start the change by passing this bill.



James P. Cassidy, LCI 1629
860-302-0596

