



February 11, 2015

The Honorable Andrew Maynard
The Honorable Antonio Guerrero
Co-Chairpersons, Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: SUPPORT for SB 502, *An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety and Transportation Options*

Dear Chairmen Maynard and Guerrero,

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation watchdog group working in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, writes to you today in full support of SB 502, *An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety and Transportation Options*.

The main purpose of SB 502 is to eliminate the ambiguity in Section 14-286b of the general statutes. The existing law states that bicyclists must ride as far to the right as practicable, with some exceptions. The language, as written, presents two problems. First, it suggests that bicyclists may not occupy a full travel lane, which can be the safest action on narrow roadways. Second, as we have learned through conversations with engineers, it precludes municipalities from designing streets which include modern bicycle facilities such as two-way bike lanes, contra-flow bike lanes, or bike lanes on the left side of one-way or median-separated two-way streets.

SB 502 will also reduce impediments to advancing Complete Streets policies which have been adopted by both the State and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. By excluding context-sensitive bicycle facilities, the current statutes hinder full implementation of these Complete Streets policies.

We urge you to draft SB 502 as a comprehensive bill which:

1. Clarifies the law on riding as far to the right as practicable, as recommended by the League of American Bicyclists.
2. Permits and encourages modern bicycle facilities, including two-way bike lanes, contra-flow bike lanes, and left-side bike lanes.
3. Clarifies when and how motor vehicles may pass slower moving vehicles, including bicycles.

Many other states are taking the necessary steps to promote active transportation, but Connecticut is not moving forward at the same pace. By advancing SB 502, we believe Connecticut can get back up to speed.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cutrufo
Connecticut Advocate, Tri-State Transportation Campaign