

11 MAR 2016

Re: SB 425: An Act Concerning Municipal Transparency, Efficiency, and Accountability

As a citizen cyclist living in Plainville, I have had numerous occasions to use SeeClickFix (SCF) to report issues of concern to me as a cyclist. In fact, I still have one issue that has been outstanding for more than four years. I would very much like to close this issue, but will not do so in hopes that it will one day be successfully addressed.

I think SCF is a great idea for getting things in front of town and state officials for meaningful action, but it will only really work if those officials want to make it work. Without having read this proposed legislation, I am not sure how much it will do to accomplish governmental compliance. Like so many other pieces of legislation, it may be just another initiative that becomes the responsibility of already overburdened staff and reported issues will usually fall through the cracks.

In the case of my outstanding issue mentioned above (#154816), the early responses by CT DOT and regional planning (then CCRPA) officials were hopeful (if a bit unreasonable), and the added emphasis provided by an SCF employee living in the area was encouraging. But, once the initial comments gathered dust, nothing more has happened. When asked by SCF if I want to close the issue, I regularly respond that no, I do not and usually add what I hope is a positive "let's give it another try". I think part of the problem is that there is no incentive for local, regional or state officials to follow through by engaging the reporter and working out a manageable solution.

So, I have not "benefitted" to the extent I had originally hoped, but I am still hopeful that such an initiative can provide significant benefits if all the parties work to make that happen.

Respectfully,

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