

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Bridget Boucaud <bboucaud@vnengineers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:38 AM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: bikewalkct@bikewalkct.org
Subject: Support for HB 5403, Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety

Dear Rep. Tong, Sen. Coleman, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a supporter of Bike Walk Connecticut and as the public involvement specialist for the CT Safe Routes to School Program I thank you for raising HB 5403, an important measure to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to use the roads. I urge the legislature to pass this bill in 2016.

The CT Safe Routes to School team has been on the front lines educating students, grades k-8, on best walking and biking practices as well as assessing the current travel conditions around schools. We tell our program participants that drivers often do not obey the laws and that they need to assume they are not seen, even when in a crosswalk. We want our students, parents, and teachers to know that the law is there to protect their rights as road users, and that they are also personally responsible for following these existing rules and staying safe. We need Connecticut to continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for all its citizens as they travel.

As a driver and as a parent of a young driver, I follow the rules of the road and educate my son in the same vein, yielding to pedestrians when in a crosswalk, especially where it is permissible to take a right on red.

I also have 25 years plus as a runner, and I obey all the rules, stay visible when dark, run on the sidewalk or on the left facing traffic, and wait for the traffic light at intersections. As a citizen I am committed to do my part and I ask you as legislators to do yours.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Bridget Boucaud
Cheshire, CT