



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
neil.pade@gmail.com



February 7, 2013

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

Dear Chairmen Maynard and Guerrero:

The Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, does not support proposed bill No. 103, LCO No. 531, AN ACT REQUIRING BICYCLISTS TO RIDE SINGLE FILE ON A PUBLIC ROAD.

The need for safe passage is incontrovertible. However the statement of purpose in this proposed bill to, “permit motorists to safely pass and yield three feet to the bicyclists as required by law”, is already addressed by the current statute (Sec. 14-286b):

“(b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding two abreast, as provided in this subsection, shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.”

The current statute clearly states that riders may not ride 2 abreast if they are impeding traffic. We interpret this to mean that they must move to single file when a motor vehicle approaches them from behind, unless they are riding the speed limit (which does occur at times).

We would however support clarifying language which better defines "impede traffic".

Regardless the bill as proposed leads to no benefit, and no additional safety, only unnecessary restriction and may potentially decrease safety. A parent would not even legally be able to ride next to their child. Eliminating reasonable use of our roadways by 2 persons riding side-by-side will reduce the enjoyment of a healthy recreational and transportation alternative.

When a current law meets the needs, as is the case here, the solution is education and enforcement of the current law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Neil S. Pade AICP

Chairman, Connecticut Bicycle and
Pedestrian Advisory Board

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