



Mar 15, 2024

Chair Coffey & Members of House Committee on Transportation:

On behalf of Transportation for Vermonters ([T4VT](#)), we ask the Committee to incorporate the vulnerable road user protections proposed in H.685 into the Miscellaneous DMV Bill (S.309).

As T4VT testified to your committee earlier this session, these protections are simple yet important ways to make people safer in our communities. In particular:

- It is critical that we extend pedestrian protections to those using wheelchairs and other assistive devices. With older Vermonters making up an increasingly significant portion of our population, this will continue to be an unjust barrier to safety.
- Strengthening protections for bicyclists is a necessary step in supporting independent mobility, reduced carbon emissions, and healthy, active transportation.

H.685 updates Vermont's vulnerable road user laws by:

- Makes safe passing of vulnerable users a requirement
- Makes bicycling safer by allowing stop-as-yield
- Removes Vermont's problematic sidewalk use requirement
- Makes bicycling safer by allowing people on bikes to cross intersections on pedestrian signals
- Corrects the definition of pedestrian to include people using wheelchairs and other assistive devices

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our coalition members below. Thank you for your consideration.

Kati Gallagher
Coordinator, Transportation for Vermonters
Sustainable Communities Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council
kgallagher@vnrc.org

Kelly Stoddard-Poor
Associate State Director, AARP-VT
kstoddardpoor@aarp.org

Jonathon Weber
Complete Streets Senior Manager & Advocacy Director, Local Motion
jonathon@localmotion.org

