



March 12, 2021

Re: S. 66, An Act Related to Electric Bicycles

Chair Mazza and the Senate Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.66; I support passage of the legislation.

I have served as the Director of Planning & Zoning for the City of South Burlington for the past 12 years. I am also the City's Chief Sustainability Officer, supporting the City's efforts to meet its climate objectives and its long term environmental, fiscal, and community health. I have shepherd improvements to both infrastructure and access to bicycling in support of the City's overall transportation and recreation goals.

As has previously been stated to the Committee, the proposed legislation would provide for classification of electric bicycles in a manner that is consistent with and complementary to states throughout the country and within the industry. I have been asked, more specifically, to testify on the proposed local authority regulate the operation of electric bicycle and multi-use paths.

The bill as presented is reasonable and appropriate to meet the varying types of facilities and operational conditions throughout our diverse state. It provides for a consistent classification, and considers them alongside bicycles on roads and within bicycle lanes. Further, it sets a default that electric bicycles be permitted be bicycle and multiuse paths, but affords the applicable jurisdiction the ability to prohibit usage on these facilities.

I offer two minor recommendations regarding the language as proposed:

- The legislation on its face appears to be silent on electric bicycle usage on sidewalks. If the definition of a multiuse path in Vermont includes a sidewalk or there is already clear authority to regulate all bicycles on sidewalks elsewhere in Statute, then the language as presented would be sufficient; if that is not the case, the authority grated to local and State entities in this bill should be extended to include sidewalks.
- The procedural language should be clarified. The text as drafted requires a notice and a public hearing for the operation of class 1 or class 2 electric bicycles on paths. It is unclear as to the same is required or regulation of class 3 electric bicycles on paths [subsection (e)(3)] or for regulating electric bicycles on trails [subsection (e)(4)]. For consistency, a singular procedure for all three subsections is recommended.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.66.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Conner".

Paul Conner, AICP
Director of Planning & Zoning and Chief Sustainability Officer