

From: Henry Severance

Date: 5/6/2025

To: The House Committee on Transportation

Support for Pouech Amendment to S.123

Dear House Transportation Committee Member,

Please advance the Pouech amendment to the DMV bill. These changes will make people on bikes safer on Vermont's streets and roads by allowing people on bikes to proceed through intersections more efficiently and with reduced conflict with motor vehicles.

Stop-as-yield will allow people on bikes to cautiously roll through stop signs when there is no other traffic present at a stop-controlled intersection. Bike use of pedestrian signals allows people on bikes to advance during the pedestrian crossing phase at a signalized intersection.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) [has studied](#) and [supports](#) stop-as-yield because it is shown to reduce crashes involving people on bikes. With respect to safety for kids, the NHTSA study found no difference in the effect of stop-as-yield laws based on age. The proposed language in Vermont would delay the effective date of stop-as-yield for one year in order to give state highway safety agencies and organizations time to educate the public. Local Motion will be updating its educational curriculum which reaches thousands of Vermont youth annually.

New York City studied bicycle use of pedestrian signals and chose to make it legal because of the positive effects found in the study. Bike use of pedestrian signals is also legal and working well in Burlington.

I also believe that aligning law with commonsense and safe behaviors will reduce animosity and confusion between road users.

Sincerely,

Henry Severance