

From: Jason Stuffle

Date: 5/6/2025

To: The House Committee on Transportation

In Support of the Pouech Amendment to S.123

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.

As an avid bicycle commuter for over 30 years the reality is that myself and others already utilize stop as yield and pedestrian signals when on a bike for our own personal safety. Being on a bicycle with multiple ton vehicles moving around me I understand I will always lose due to simple physics. $\text{Force} = \text{mass} * \text{acceleration}$. Vehicles have a huge mass compared to a bicycle so people on bicycles should be given the choice to legally keep themselves safer.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has studied and supports stop-as-yield because it is shown to reduce crashes involving people on bikes. 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,

Jason Stuffle

Burlington Walk Bike Council