

From: Michael Giguere

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To: The House Committee on Transportation

Supporting Safer Streets

Dear House Transportation Committee members,
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.

I commute to work by bicycle the majority of the year, and these changes would help normalize traffic behavior that is accepted and supported by traffic professionals. The most uncomfortable and unsafe sections of my commute involve intersections, and this would be a major step in the right direction.

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 common sense and safe behaviors will reduce animosity and confusion between road users.

Sincerely,

Michael Giguere
South Burlington