

From: Nick Bennette
Date: 5/6/2025
To: The House Committee on Transportation

Support stop-as-yield and bicycle use of pedestrian signals as updates to Vermont's motor vehicle code

On behalf of the nearly 10,000 Members of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association, I'm writing to encourage you to advance stop-as-yield (Idaho Stop) language in the Miscellaneous DMV Bill. We support this change for several reasons:

- **Safety:** A December 2024 report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that stop-as-yield laws were associated with reduced crash rates, particularly at suburban stop-controlled intersections. The study found no significant change in reckless behaviors following the enactment of stop-as-yield laws.
- **Promoting Vermont as a bike-friendly brand:** As Vermont approaches a bicycle tourism season with significant uncertainty, we feel that continuing to update Vermont's laws protecting bicyclists and other vulnerable users will contribute to our state's brand as one that is supportive of people who experience Vermont by bike.
- **Aligning laws with actual behavior:** Many people practice stop-as-yield now and will continue to do so because it is intuitive and enhances their safety. Animosity towards people biking can occur when other road users see people biking breaking the law, but that the animosity is rooted in the breaking of the law as opposed to the behavior itself. We believe that aligning law with actual behavior can therefore reduce animosity between road users—an imperative for an organization whose success is dependent on the relationship between trail users and other community members.

While VMBA is focused on the stewardship and management of natural surface trails, many of those who ride off-road travel to and from the trailhead on their bikes and participate in other forms of on-road riding.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.