



Public Works
Engineering

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March 18, 2009

Representative Beyer, Chair
House Committee on Transportation
Re: House Bill 2690: Bicyclists Stopping at Intersections

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene has great concerns with House Bill 2690. This bill as written would allow bicyclists to proceed through an intersection without stopping at a stop sign or flashing red signal if there is no traffic lawfully within the intersection or approaching so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

This "slow and go" behavior at stop signs is currently practiced by some bicyclists even though they know it is illegal. If this legislation becomes law, bicyclists may go through intersections without stopping when they determine that there is no "immediate hazard." This is our biggest concern.

Under current law, all vehicles must stop at stop signs, which allow everyone the time to adequately assess whether it is safe to proceed. Motorists will no longer know if approaching bicyclists will stop at intersections. While experienced and safety minded bicyclists' may make the right choices, this proposed legislation may lead to increased crashes because many bicyclists, especially our young riders, will misunderstand the law and blast through stop signs with tragic results.

Around the country bicycle organizations promote "same rights, same responsibilities" in their share the road campaigns. HB 2690 will modify one of the main safety rules for bicyclists and may add to the rift between motorists and bicyclists.

If ease of travel for bicyclists is the goal, cities can design local streets to be bicycle boulevards with limited stop signs and traffic calming features to attract riders from busier streets which need traffic control devices for public safety. **The City of Eugene urges a no vote on HB 2690.**

Sincerely,

Lee Shoemaker
City of Eugene Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator