

Dear Legislators,

I strongly urge you to approve the "Stop as Yield" bill that would allow people on bikes to slow, check for traffic and then proceed safely through an intersection controlled by a stop sign or flashing red light. Like most people who ride bikes, this is actually what I already do, simply because it takes a lot of effort to start a bike rolling again if I have unnecessarily come to a complete stop. If you simply watch a novice bicyclist, and even many experienced cyclists, start up when a traffic light turns green, you will immediately see that they are working hard and wobbling a lot until they regain momentum.

The current law requiring a complete stop at stop signs would probably never have been written if there had been an expectation that bicycles would constitute a significant part of the transportation mix. Now that we need to encourage people to travel by bike as part of the answer to climate change, traffic congestion, social equity and obesity, we can't afford outdated regulations that discourage bicycling.

Please approve and pass SB 998, the "Stop as Yield" bill.

Thank you for your work for Oregon.

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