

Hi,

I'm a long time Oregon resident. I was raised here starting in 1989 and have lived here ever since. I grew up in Salem, attended college and launched my engineering career in Corvallis, and now live in Portland. I have always treated stop signs as yield signs, and all of my cycling friends do the same. SB-998 is only legalizing what every cyclist in Oregon does. It will not impact current behavior but it will legitimize it, and hopefully improve safety while interacting with drivers and pedestrians.

As is, most drivers in Portland are overly cautious around cyclists because we do unexpected things compared to cars, such as rolling through a stop sign. If there were clear rules for cyclists as to when that's OK, then drivers could refine their expectations of cyclists and actually be less cautious around us because they have a better sense of what we will do. Similarly, I've had trouble with pedestrians crossing parallel to me, and then cutting across in front of me just after I performed a rolling stop. In this case, we both did something "unexpected" and not in compliance with the law. We are both traveling at a low speed and heightened awareness, so no collisions to speak of, but it does result in some hurt feelings and road use anxiety. So I think having clearly defined laws that take into account existing behavior should reduce confusion, road use anxiety and low speed collisions.

Please approve SB-998, and spend a little money to make road users aware of the law change so we can capture the safety benefits it should bring.

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-- Carlin Scott