



June 23, 2019

Chairman Paul Holvey
Committee Members
House Rules Committee
Oregon House of Representatives

Support for SB 998: Permit cyclists to yield at stop signs

Dear Chairman Holvey and Committee Members:

The Street Trust urges adoption of SB 998, which would allow cyclists to move through intersections controlled by a stop sign without coming to a full stop.

Oregon needs more people to meet their transportation needs by bike. Increasing travel by bike will reduce emissions from cars, address traffic congestion, improve public health and can reduce household income spent on transportation. The Oregon legislature should take steps to make cycling more convenient.

SB 998 is such a step. Traffic controls are almost exclusively designed for the presence of cars, which have speeds and heft that can be lethal. It takes a mere tap of the brakes for a car to come to a full stop and then a tap of the accelerator to resume its speed.

The physics are very different for a bike. Coming to a full stop depletes all the effort expended to gain momentum and starting up again requires new exertion. This impedes the progress of the cyclist and can also increase the wait of cars at the intersection as the cyclist struggles to get going again. The imposition is reasonable if the stop is needed for safety. However, cyclists can slow, assess traffic and move on if conditions do not require a full stop. SB 998 will allow this approach.

Let's keep Oregon moving--by bike! Please vote in support of SB 998.

Sincerely,

Jillian Detweiler

Executive Director