

Rhode Island legislation update

In an effort to better protect cyclists and provide for stronger penalties for striking a cyclist, the RI Bike Coalition (former Providence Bike Coalition and Greenways Alliance of Rhode Island) have been working to get a vulnerable roadway user law enacted.

Last year the House Judiciary Committee approved a version of a 3-foot passing bill. However the Senate did not act on that and new bills have been introduced in both chambers.

Recently Barry Schiller of the RI Bike Coalition attended the April 27 meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He reports that members of that committee were receptive to suggestions to amend the bill to be a “vulnerable roadway users” law and provide for stiffer penalties for striking and injuring a cyclist. As it stands now, the bill merely mandates a 3-foot passing distance for passing a cyclist and provides no penalties.

National update

On the national scene, the month of April was named Distracted Driving Month and the US DOT proposed a revision to the rules for Motor Carriers as regards the use of wireless communication devices. These rules, if adopted, would apply to Commercial Motor Vehicle operators and would ban texting while driving, which is estimated to be 23.2 times more likely to result in a “safety event” than a non-texting vehicle operator. By comparison, having a phone call with a hands-free device is 0.4, and talking on a hand-held phone is 1.0 times greater, the same as eating. The trucking industry is expected to support this rules change, as they have in the past supported legislation to ban texting while driving.

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As always, if you see an opportunity to improve conditions for cyclists, be it a planning meeting, street design, or neighborhood association, please let me know by sending email to advocacy@nbwclub.org



Thanks from Ray

It was a perfect day for the Westport Ride and, as Ray said later as he lay on the Emergency Room table, he was flying. Unfortunately a truck driver must also have been in the same mood as he emerged suddenly from a driveway. No collision, thankfully, but several riders came down. Ray is nursing a separated shoulder, but no broken bones. He thanks all who looked after him (and his bike) and who sent sympathy and get-well wishes.

Ride safely out there—it only takes a split second.

NBW Arrowing Guidelines Update

Luca Marchi has created a more graphic version of our arrowing guidelines, which we hope will help new and experienced arrowers.

Too lengthy for this newsletter, but they’re posted permanently on our website. Please review at nbwclub.org/announcements/nbw_arrowing_guide.pdf or go to nbwclub.org and click on “Follow our arrows” in the left-hand column.