From:	barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>
Sent:	Thursday, April 24, 2025 1:51 PM
To:	House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject:	suggested amendment to H5192

Dear House Committee on State Government and Elections

This is Barry Schiller,writing to suggest an amendment to H5192 that would mandate all bike path users keep right. Now pedestrians are to keep left, facing incoming traffic.

First I want thank the sponsor, Rep Speakman, for her efforts to get the rules on bike paths as good a s possible. I can report the handful of comments about the proposed change on the RIBike listserve were, with one exception, negative. My own experience, and I have used the bike paths a lot, is that as a cyclist I don't think it matters, either way,, but as a pedestrian I much prefer to keep left and see what is coming at me rather than worrying about what unseen rider (and unlike a car, is usually difficult to hear) coming up behind me.

I note that when the paths are crowded, no matter whatever the rule, there are potential conflicts.

About 20 years ago, when I was RI Sierra Club Transportation Chair, this same issue arose,and I heard from DEM staff that they didn't think the change was worth the cost in time and dollars. That attitude prevailed at the Assembly. Now the agency seems less interested in the bike paths, but that issue remains.

I know there are also some arguments for making the change.

Therefore I suggest an amendment to the bill so that instead of mandating a change of rule, the Assembly directs DEM and RIDOT to revisit the issue, determine what other states do, what safety data may say, what user opinions are, how much it would cost to make the change, and report back to the Assembly by January 2026. Rather than the Assembly trying to mandate a rule change with limited data, it seems best to first have the professionals look into the issue and come up with an informed recommendation..

Thank you for considering my views.

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