

Protect Vulnerable Roadway Users: Support SB 5326 and HB 1339

Updated 1/20/11

More than 150 equestrians, farm equipment operators, pedestrians, and bicyclists are **gravely injured and killed each year** by drivers who are breaking traffic laws. Unless those drivers are drunk or meet other conditions in RCW 46.63.020, the result is nothing more than a traffic ticket.

SB 5326/HB 1339, the Vulnerable User Bill, **fills the gap** between a simple traffic ticket and a crime. It establishes an enhanced infraction for those **drivers whose behavior maims or kills** and it will reinforce the need to exercise due care when driving around vulnerable populations.

This bill is supported by the Association of Washington Cities and a broad coalition of disability and traffic safety organizations.

What SB 5326 and HB 1339 do:

- Define Vulnerable Roadway User concept
- Amend Negligent Driving 2, an infraction, which imposes a **\$250 fine**
- Impose **a fine of between \$1000 and \$5000** and **suspension of driving privileges for 90 days,**
— OR —
The driver can reduce the fine to \$250 by appearing in court, completing **a traffic safety course** and performing up to **100 hours of community service**
- The bills require that the above penalties be completed and/or paid within **within one year** or the court will suspend driving privileges for 90 days and impose a fine of between \$1000 and \$5000
- As community service cannot be made mandatory for an infraction, the driver may choose to pay the larger fine rather than perform community service

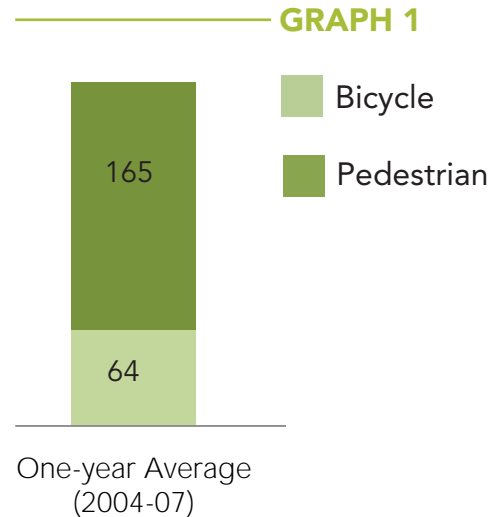
OVER →



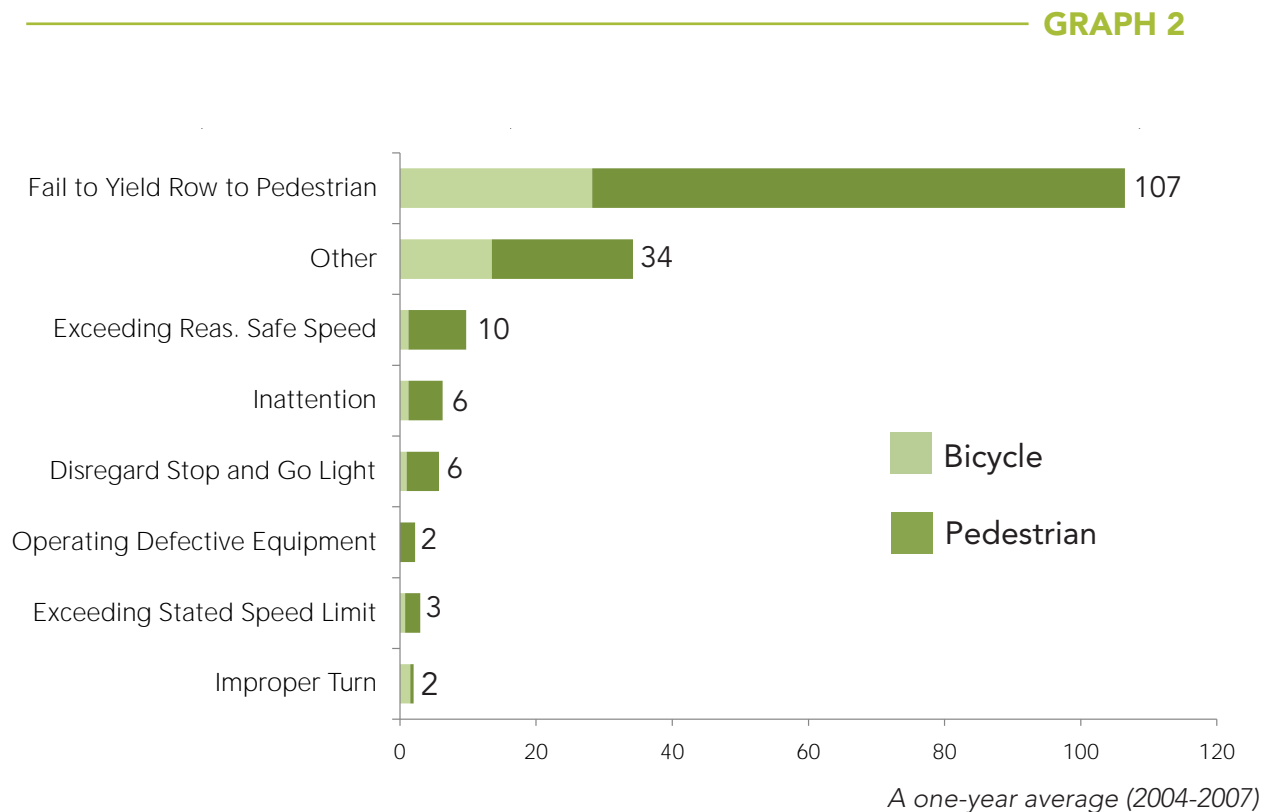
Supporting organizations:
Cascade Bicycle Club, Washington Bus, Feet First, Bicycle Alliance of Washington,
City of Seattle, Association of Washington Cities

**Washington state:
Summary of bicycle and pedestrian traffic fatalities and disabling injuries
and factors; a one-year average of data between 2004 and 2007.**

Graph 1 represents a one-year average of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and disabling injuries (derived from 2004-2007 data) that were recorded in the Washington State Collision summary reports with solely a 'motorist contributing factor,' such as 'failure to grant right of way' or 'inattentiveness.' These numbers exclude all reports involving alcohol or drugs and those in which the cyclist or pedestrian may have been at fault.



Graph 2 further delineates the averaged numbers in Graph 1 by the type of motorist negligence identified in the Washington state collision reports.



data source: Washington State Department of Transportation
Transportation Data Office



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