

2022 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing

2/11/22

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My name is Sara Lind and I'm the Director of Policy at Open Plans, a nonprofit dedicated to making our streets safe, livable and equitable.

Open Plans is part of the [New York State Safe Streets Coalition](#), a group of organizations from around the state working to pass the Crash Victim Rights and Safety Act. We're here today to request that certain safe streets items be included in the budget. Specifically, the Crash Victim Rights & Safety Act will address the need for greater street safety in New York, by designing our streets with safety as a priority to protect all road users, addressing the speeding rampant on our streets, educating drivers on bike/pedestrian safety and providing support to those personally impacted.

Traffic fatalities and speeding are on the rise. On average, three New Yorkers die daily in crashes, and hundreds more are seriously injured with debilitating life-long consequences. This epidemic affects hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers year after year, and costs New York State \$15 billion annually in combined costs from hospitalization, emergency response, legal expenses, lost wages, and lost economic activity.

The CVRSA would address this crisis and should be included in the budget. Several bills in the package have budget implications. For example, the Complete Streets bill (S3897 (Kennedy), A8936 (Fahy)) increases state funding where the municipality agrees to fund a complete street design feature. Similarly, the Complete Streets Maintenance bill (S5130 (Kennedy), A7782 (Rivera)) includes, when possible, complete street design features in resurfacing, maintenance and pavement recycling projects and further enables safe access to public roads for all users.

Open Plans also believes that automated enforcement should be extended in the budget. Red light cameras and speed cameras are critical, life-saving tools. Open Plans supports home rule, which would allow New York City and other municipalities to make life-saving changes to our speed limit and automated camera enforcement. New York city should be empowered to operate speed cameras 24/7 and restrictions on the number and location of both speed and red light cameras should be lifted.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Sara Lind

The Crash Victim Rights & Safety Act includes the following bills:

<i>Speed Limit</i>	Authorizes cities, villages and towns (outside NYC) to reduce the speed limit to twenty-five miles per hour.	S02021 (May)	A01007 (Paulin)
<i>Sammy's Law</i>	Allows lower life-saving speed limits in NYC	S524 (Hoylman)	A4655 (Gottfried)
<i>Complete Streets</i>	Increases state funding where the municipality agrees to fund a complete street design feature.	S3897 (Kennedy)	A8936 (Fahy)
<i>Complete Streets Maintenance</i>	Includes, when possible, complete street design features in resurfacing, maintenance and pavement recycling projects and further enable safe access to public roads for all users.	S5130 (Kennedy)	A7782 (Rivera)
<i>Safe Passage</i>	Require drivers pass bicyclists at a safe distance of min. 3 feet.	S4529 (Harckham)	A547 (Steck)
<i>DMV Pre-Licensing Course</i>	Educates NY drivers about safely interacting with vulnerable road users	S1078A (Gounardes)	A5084/7032 (Gallagher)
<i>Crash Victim Bill of Rights</i>	Guarantee rights & a voice for crash victims and their loved ones in legal proceedings	S8152 (Hoylman)	A9152 (Glick)