

Bills can help make streets safer for pedestrians

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Americans of all ages want transportation options so they can remain independent, stay connected in their communities, and engage in civic and social life. Yet, too many cannot safely walk, bicycle, or take public transportation to their destinations. The roadways in their neighborhoods often lack sidewalks, crosswalks, room for transit riders, and accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Walking is the most common mode of transportation after the private vehicle. We may start to see more pedestrians now that many New Jersey school children have lost busing service. Being a pedestrian in the Garden State can be very dangerous. Out of all the fatalities caused by traffic accidents during a given year, the national average number of those that are pedestrian fatalities is approximately 12 percent. In New Jersey, that number is hovering at 24 percent.

Two federal bills would provide sensible solution: The Complete Streets Act and the Older Driver and Pedestrian Safety and Roadway Enhancement Act. If passed, these bills would go a long way toward ensuring safer streets and sidewalks whether we are driving or walking, young or old.

Why not call your congressman and ask him to sponsor these bills? Let's work together to make our state's streets safe.
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