



# Monroe County Legislature

**RACHEL BARNHART**

**Legislator – District 17**

PHONE: (585) 210-3246

E-MAIL: RACHEL@RACHBARNHART.COM

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To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Re: Memorializing the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to support the New York State SAFE Streets Act**

## **Honorable Legislators:**

Motor vehicle crashes impose a devastating and preventable toll on our community. In crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians alone, Monroe County experienced 5,132 incidents from 2014 to 2023, with 2,279 causing injury or fatality. On average, 13 bicyclists or pedestrians die every year in traffic collisions in Monroe County. This data highlights the urgent need for proactive measures to protect all road users, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and those using mobility devices.

New York State lawmakers are considering the SAFE Streets Act, a package of bills aimed at addressing this crisis through improved road design, vehicle safety standards, and updated traffic laws. If passed, these measures will significantly reduce collisions, save lives, and create safer streets for all.

## **Key Bills of the NYS SAFE Streets Act:**

- **Complete Streets Maintenance (S915/A01077):** This bill would require, when possible, the inclusion of complete street design features in resurfacing, maintenance, and pavement recycling projects. By incorporating infrastructure improvements, such as bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly crossings, we can ensure safer access to public roads for all users.
- **Defined Safe Passing (S1665/A01831):** This measure would require motorists to maintain a minimum of three feet when passing pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheelchair users statewide (excluding New York City, which will continue to follow its “safe distance” requirement). This law will help prevent dangerous close encounters and collisions.
- **Stop as Yield (S639/A3986):** This bill would allow cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs and stop lights as stop signs. This change prioritizes pedestrian safety, reduces conflicts between cyclists and vehicles, and encourages the use of safer, lower-traffic routes by cyclists.
- **Speed Limiters for the Most Reckless Drivers (S4045/A02299):** This legislation would require mandatory intelligent speed assistance technology for repeat offenders. By limiting the speed of high-risk drivers, this measure could help reduce severe crashes caused by excessive speeding.

Crashes are not inevitable. By investing in policies that prioritize safe road design and responsible driving, we can prevent senseless deaths and injuries. These common-sense measures will save lives, reduce injuries, and ensure that all road users—whether they are driving, walking, biking, or using mobility devices—can travel safely.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Barnhart".

**Rachel Barnhart**

**Legislator – District 17**