

Chairman Nate Shannon and members of the House Committee on Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure

Ref: **Support for House Bill 4012**

Dear Chairman Shannon and Committee Members:

As the Chief of Police for the City of Holland and Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Board Member, I am writing to fully endorse House Bill 4012. I have testified in person in support of similar bills in the past and have been involved with attempting to get the needed changes in this Bill passed to provided added safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The new language in HB 4012 pertaining to the ability to post a speed limit "within 5 mph" of the 85th percentile speed is a needed change. The current language of posting speed limits to "the nearest multiple of 5 mph" of the 85th percentile requires rounding up, therefore possibly increasing the speed limit above the 85th percentile. The 85th percentile standard is the speed that 85 percent of free-flowing vehicles are traveling at or below.

The new proposed language allowing for the speed limit to be set below the 85th percentile helps to clarify that an engineering and safety study must be conducted and demonstrate that hazards to public safety exist before a speed limit can be lowered. The current language is ambiguous and simply states that the speed limit cannot be set below the 50th percentile. The current language has created some confusion and differing opinions on when and how a speed limit can be set between the 50th and 85th percentile.

HB 4012 will provide some minimal flexibility for unique circumstances and situations where road design or an increase in pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic exists. We support the 85th percentile standardization toward speed limits, however, we also understand and observe conditions within our communities where engineering and safety studies can help to keep our citizens safe and save lives.

Please vote in favor of HB 4012. We need to keep our speed limits posted at or below the 85th percentile and allow for engineering and safety studies to keep our streets safer for all.

Sincerely,



Matt Messer
Chief of Public Safety Services
City of Holland