

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee,

The ability to travel independently is essential to access to our community for all citizens. Some individuals with disabilities are unable to receive a driver's license and rely on transit and non motorized modes of travel. The ability to get to school, shop, work, and meet basic needs is dependent on the ability to walk and bike in their community.

Unfortunately, we have spent the last 60 years designing roadways that meet the needs of the motorists who are the most capable travelers. The complete streets legislation requires roadway to consider the needs of the most vulnerable members of our society. Without HB 6151 and 6152, individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly needs will be addressed only when convenient. Changing our old ways of doing things is not convenient. The years of considering how fast more cars can travel through our community will make even the slightest changes to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists seem as an inconvenience or impediment to traffic flow.

The current state of our transportation system denies individuals with disabilities access to our society. This has occurred by subtle omissions of sidewalks or pedestrian crossings that might add a few minutes to the travel time of motor vehicles. These omissions can make travel so dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists that only the boldest would attempt the adventures to get to work, doctors, or the store. In some cases the omissions may make the route inaccessible even for the bravest of travelers.

I urge you to support Complete Streets Legislation (HB6151 and 6152), so our children, elderly parents, and family members with disabilities can have access to our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to share the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,

John P. Waterman
Executive Director
Programs to Educate All Cyclists

Hi.

My name is James Kleimola.

I'm 18 years old and go to Ypsilanti high school.

I have a disability and can't get a driver's license.

I use my bike as transportation.

I can't ride my bike to church or the store, because the roads are unsafe.

I can ride to Eastern Michigan University

Where I plan to go to college and be the football manager.

Please support complete streets

And help me become independent.

Thank you.

Hello Representatives,

Bicycling is a very fun exercise for my body and brain.

I like to ride my own bike with all my heart.

Leading the group on the bike paths is exciting.

I like the good roads by city hall.

On dangerous roads I have to ride a tandem.

I can't ride to school from my house because it is dangerous.

Please fix the roads, so I can ride alone and not get hit by a car.

Thank You,

Conor Waterman