

June 10, 2010

Michigan House of Representatives
Michigan House Transportation Committee
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

RE: COMPLETE STREETS, H.B. 6151 and 6152

Dear House Transportation Committee Members,

Peckham Inc. has been a part of the Lansing community for more than 30 years advocating for people with disabilities. Peckham is privileged to support the Complete Streets initiatives both locally and across the state of Michigan and committed to maximizing opportunities for persons with disabilities to become independent.

Growing numbers of individuals are increasingly interested in making their communities more vibrant and easily accessible, and persons with disabilities are no exception. They want to live close to work, local retailers and near public services that provide an easy and safe commute. These kinds of communities are vital to individuals with disabilities for many reasons.

Studies show that people with disabilities are two to five times greater to live below the poverty line, than those without disabilities. Quite often they do not have the resources to commute thirty or forty minutes to work or the grocery store. Many live close to city centers and often rely on alternative transportation.

In order to sustain the vitality and safety of our community residents, who are differently-abled, safe sidewalks, bike lanes, curb cuts and other safety measures to make our streets accessible and livable are necessary. We believe this will result in safer, more dynamic communities with greater economic potential.

This can be achieved by supporting the Complete Streets initiatives. We strongly urge our legislators to listen to the voice of our community and help make our streets safe.

Josh Britton
Peckham, Inc.