

June 24, 2010

House Committee on Transportation  
State Capitol. Rpp, 251  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909



Detroit  
Regional Chapter

RE: House Bill 6151 and 6152 - Proposed Complete Streets Legislation

The House Committee on Transportation:

The of the United States Green Building Council- Detroit Regional Chapter (USGBC-DRC) would like to voice their support for the Complete Streets legislation before the committee today, House Bills 6151 and 6152.

The Mission of the USGBC- DRC is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.

Complete Streets legislation will ensure that engineers and planners design roadways to meet the needs of all users, not just motorists. It will allow citizens of all ages and abilities to travel safely and conveniently. Complete Streets do not look the same in every community – in some communities, the creation of a bike lane or the changing of traffic signal patterns will be more than enough. In others, there will be structural changes necessary to insure that all users will be provided safe and complete solutions.

Complete Streets will boost the economy, improve safety, and promote public health. Livable communities are viable communities. Streets with bike paths, sidewalks, and transit increase commercial and private property values, attract new development, and encourage local residents to buy goods and services in their own neighborhoods.

Additionally, complete infrastructure that includes pedestrian walkways and reduced speed limits will reduce pedestrian and bicyclist crashes, as well as encouraging safer bicyclist behavior.

By creating safer communities, Complete Streets makes it easier for citizens to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. Citizens living in neighborhoods with proper infrastructure – comprehensive networks of sidewalks and bike paths – will be more likely to bike and walk or use transit to work and school, rather than drive. In 2008, Michigan's obesity rate ranked ninth highest in the nation. A statewide Complete Streets policy will help to combat such public health concerns.

The Detroit Regional Chapter of USGBC supports H.B. 6151 and 6152. We believe such legislation will make Michigan a stronger, safer and healthier state.

Sincerely,

Robert Prud'homme  
Chair- LEED for Neighborhood Development  
USGBC- Detroit Regional Chapter