

June 24, 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 Committee Members,

My name is Barbara Kramer, and I live in Iron Mountain Michigan. I am a Republican candidate for County Commissioner in Dickinson County. I would like to express my support for the Complete Streets legislation, H.B. 6151 and 6152. These bills will ensure that roadways accommodate all users, regardless of age or ability and promote safe, livable and healthy communities.

For years, local and statewide transportation plans focused solely on the needs and conveniences of the automobile. In fact, US-2 is now a 4-lane speedway right through downtown Iron Mountain and because of this, it has become more and more difficult, if not dangerous, for the non-motorized community— bicyclists, pedestrians, the disabled, children and older citizens – to use this roadway and others in a safe and convenient manner. Roadways should be designed to meet the needs of all users, not just a select minority. Complete Streets legislation will ensure that everyone has equal access to their streets.

Referencing my above statement, there have been more than 200 documented vehicular accidents in downtown Iron Mountain within the last 5 years, including several pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities. Elderly individuals have repeated come to the City Council of Iron Mountain with complaints that they do not have enough time (at the intersections) to cross US-2 in the downtown. Although current County Commissioners state that they support a County-wide recreational/bike path system, they have resisted authorizing a bike lane around Lake Antoine County Park, stating that it is too expensive and not necessary. Lake Antoine is a major recreational area, and it should be able to be enjoyed by pedestrians and bicyclists as well as boaters, swimmers and fishermen.

The reality is that more and more of our residents are finding that non-motorized transportation fits the needs of their lifestyles. If we want to grow our County and attract new residents and new businesses, we must be able to offer alternate transportation options and routes to our residents. Complete Streets legislation will foster economic development, encourage tourism, attract new residents, and create a safer and healthier community for everyone. I trust that the committee will pass this legislation, and help move Michigan forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Kramer
NEW VOICE - NEW VISION

Republican Candidate for
Dickinson County Board of Commissioners
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