



Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council

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Michigan House of Representatives
Transportation Committee

Written Testimony
Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council
June 24, 2010

On behalf of the members and board of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council ("Mid-MEAC", we submit this testimony on behalf of the residents of Eaton, Clinton and Ingham Counties. Mid-MEAC fully supports HB 6151 and HB 6152 which would implement a statewide Complete Streets planning process for roads, streets and highways throughout the state of Michigan.

In 2009, Mid-MEAC was the driving force behind the City of Lansing's *Complete Streets* initiative. In just a few months, nearly 100 volunteers collected over 5,000 signatures to put a Complete Streets ordinance on the ballot. This overwhelming public support for making our roadways safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists helped the Lansing City Council see the importance of this safety issue and the *Complete Streets* ordinance was adopted unanimously by the City Council.

In the tri-county area, a pedestrian or bicyclist is hit by a car every three days. It is incumbent upon our elected officials to make every effort to protect the safety and well-being of the people of the state of Michigan, including pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, the visually impaired and our most vulnerable children - stroller riders. We respectfully submit that this legislation will allow communities to protect citizens by considering engineering, aesthetics and safety during the road planning process.

This legislation is not an unfunded mandate nor would it put an undue burden on communities during these difficult economic times. *Complete Streets* planning requires that communities consider the needs of non-motorized transportation users and, when roads or sidewalks are being built or reconstructed, that design changes (curb cuts, bike lanes) be included whenever possible. For a road that's already wide enough, adding a few feet for a bike line could cost as little as a measuring tape and a bucket of paint. This small cost would help us save lives and protect our citizens.

In closing, we respectfully request that the members of the Transportation Committee vote affirmatively on both House Bills.

Sincerely,

MC Rothhorn
Board President