

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,

Hello my name is Jim Briggs. I am here today to speak on behalf of the disability community, on behalf of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, and on my own behalf. I live and volunteer in Ann Arbor, MI. The Ann Arbor CIL works with and on behalf of people who have disabilities toward success at home, at work, at school, and in the community. We all need complete streets. We want to be able to travel by walking, by mobility device, by bicycle or hand-cycle, by car or truck and safely and accessibly reach any destinations that we choose to travel to throughout the State of Michigan. We need complete streets to live, work, and play independently in Michigan. Right now I can not just hop on bus and know when I arrive at a destination in Michigan that I will be able to get to where I want to go independently because MDOT does not have all roads throughout Michigan accessible for non-motorized use.

I and the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living are asking that you continue to support Michigan Complete Streets legislation, House Bills 6151 and 6152. These bills will help the infrastructure for more places to be accessible, walkable or bikeable. Complete streets will help economic growth in our communities – again I want to go more places and the state of roads, sidewalks, and curb ramps limits my independence. With accessible installation I gain freedom and choices.

Complete streets policies ensure that infrastructure is designed and operated to **enable safe access for all users**. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities can move safely along and across a complete street. **Complete Streets promote public health** by making it safe and convenient for my family, my friends, and I to incorporate physical activity into our daily lives.

Say Yes to Complete Streets -- Vote yes House Bills 6151 and 6152! Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of Michigan's Citizens including those of us who have disabilities. By making things accessible from the outset you make it so all of us can have access!

Testimony from:

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Examples from Jim Briggs:

Washtenaw Ave – I was unable to travel on Washtenaw to get from Arborland to the County Service Center on my own because the side walk just stops at Arborland and then there is only a shoulder that runs across two highway on and off ramps. The same would be true for the reverse direction. I like to combine my trips out in the community between business, pleasure, and shopping.

Ann Arbor Saline Road – I can not get to Target shopping center independently because the bike path ends at Eisenhower Parkway and the Target is on the other side of I-94. The only way to travel is in the street and that is just not safe for me or any other pedestrian or cyclist.

One of my friends took more risks than me and she was in her scooter trying to go to a public park and there were no sidewalks. Her scooter was unable to traverse the shoulder and she fell and hit her head.

I can not go to Quality 16 or Showcase movies because both of these areas in my county do not have complete streets. There are no sidewalks to reach these facilities.

I don't like being a home body I want to be able to go through out Michigan – just like our PURE Michigan ads encourage --- but because I know everything is not accessible I know I can not just get up and go. I should be able to enjoy our great state like every other citizen. Please pass and implement complete streets for all of us!