

Representative Holly Hughes  
Michigan House of Representatives  
91st District

Dear Representative Holly Hughes,

Thank you for your efforts on the Safe Passing Bill. As you know several cities in Michigan have already approved city ordinances that protect bicyclists including; Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Norton Shores. They have successfully approved a five foot clearance from a passing vehicle in these communities to give law enforcement an objective standard for enforcement. Significant interest continues to grow around the state as more and more communities are passing ordinances to protect our bicyclists.

It is time for Michigan to step up and pass a law that gives bicyclists an objective standard of safety. Even though police officers know any type of law or ordinance will be difficult to enforce it is important to give them a chance to enforce the law by giving them an objective measure instead of subjective language which will make it impossible to enforce. As the Chief of Police in the City of Norton Shores, I am proud that our community passed a five foot safe passing ordinance to enhance tourism and safety within our city. We have used the new ordinance to raise public awareness through education. Education is the key to safety in Michigan. Thank you again for your time and efforts on this important task.

Jon Gale

Chief of Police

Norton Shores Police Department

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