

Cath Petroskey

From: Michael Unsworth <unsygm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Cath Petroskey
Cc: Aneta Kiersnowski
Subject: Safe Passing Legislation

Dear House Transportation Committee Members:

The Tri-County Bicycle Association (TCBA) is pleased to support the bicycle safety package of HBs 4185, 4198, 4265, and 5003. Such legislation is needed to ensure that drivers do not create unsafe conditions by passing cyclists too closely and that Michigan driver's education will put a greater emphasis on bicycle safety.

The most common type of bicycle/auto crashes is when a bicyclist was "going straight ahead" prior to a crash. Large vehicles produce strong air currents which can knock cyclists off course if they pass too closely. This is especially dangerous given the bad conditions of our area's roads. Many motorists are unaware of the dangers posed by their actions. Others intentionally pass closely to intimidate bicyclists.

Michigan law is inadequate because it gives a motorist a loose standard: "pass at a safe distance." Moreover, law enforcement is put in a difficult situation. Patrol officers do not have a clearly defined standard.

The Five-Foot Passing bills would set the legal standard for "safe distance." Motorists, bicyclists and law enforcement would get clear guidance that would reduce confusion and frustration. Thus, it will reduce bicyclist injuries and deaths.

TCBA joins others in Michigan in urging you to pass these laws.

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