



October 30, 2017

Dear House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

The Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC) represents the interests of pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled across Washtenaw County. The WBWC strongly supports current efforts to enact legislation creating standards for safely passing cyclists and improving driver's education to better emphasize bicycle safety.

Specifically, WBWC urges the House Transportation Committee to vote in favor of HB 4185, 4198, 4265, and 5003.

While the need for this legislation can be found in statistics--car/bicycle crashes in Washtenaw County up 57% from 2015 to 2016--we at the WBWC take it more personally. There is the story of Karen McKeachie, a 62-year-old world class triathlete killed in 2016 near Dexter when a motorist attempted to pass another vehicle and struck Karen head-on. Or there is Michael Curley, a 26-year-old killed in Ann Arbor by a hit-and-run driver in 2015 as he was biking home to his wife and son after finishing a shift at work.

Clearly there is a need to curtail the senseless injury and death of cyclists and pedestrians in Michigan. Therefore, we of the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition urge the passage into law of legislation that will protect cyclists and improve driver's education to better emphasize the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Houk  
WBWC Board Chair