



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

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Dear Honorable Members of the Michigan State Senate,

The Michigan Municipal League would like to take this opportunity to express strong support for the Complete Streets legislation embodied within House Bills 6151 and 6152, as reported by the Senate Transportation Committee and including the language in the substitutes to be considered on the floor. Communities across Michigan are on the forefront of changing how we think about transportation planning and recognizing how integral these policies can be to creating and sustaining vibrant communities, promoting economic development and building a sense of place that is critical in today's challenging economy.

The idea of Complete Streets is a concept that follows this line of thinking. As MDOT and communities plan road projects, thinking about appealing to all of the users of that roadway and working on aspects of the project to promote the surrounding area as a destination will make a tremendous difference in how we view our communities. Our residents truly value being able to bike to the park or walk to the corner coffee shop or ice cream store and developing legislation to promote these kinds of decisions is important to building that sense of place which will strengthen our state.

While there were initial concerns about some aspects of the legislation as introduced, all questions of local control, cost and education have been successfully addressed within the bills before you. There are also some key elements that the League strongly advocated for which are included in the bills. The creation of the advisory council in HB 6151 will help educate the department and local road agencies on best practices from around the state and the country. Even more important, the inclusion of mechanisms for road agencies to acknowledge each other in the planning process and for communities to have a stronger say in the projects that the county road commission or the state plan to pursue within the municipality's boundaries is an vital component of the League's support.

The League would like to thank Senator Gilbert, Representative Byrnes and Representative Switalski for their diligent work to ensure that all interest groups were brought into the discussion and were given an opportunity to express their opinions on the proposal. The legislation before you has evolved significantly since its introduction thanks to the open forum that was fostered by these legislators. The League truly appreciates the opportunity to participate in this process.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Please let me know if you have any questions about the League's position on these bills.

Sincerely,

Chris Hackbarth
Legislative Associate