



Cherry Capital Cycling Club  
PO Box 1807  
Traverse City, MI 49685  
*www.CherryCapitalCyclingClub.org*

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Pam Byrnes.  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Chair, House Transportation Committee

Re: Alternative Transportation needs- bicycling

There are many benefits to improving our transportation infrastructure to promote the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation. There are many positive aspects to a more bicycle friendly transportation system. Among them:

- Safety for bicyclists while using our roads
- Improved health for Michigan residents
- Less impact on the environment (carbon emissions)
- Reduced use of fuel through less vehicular traffic and likely increased use of public transportation
- Increased tourism- we are blessed with nature's beauty!

The following are important elements for safe, environmentally sustainable transportation that promotes healthy living for Michigan residents:

- Implement Complete Streets at the State level.
- Commit MDOT, county road commissions and municipalities to conforming to Complete Streets.
- House Transportation Committee institutes a review process of planned projects locally and statewide to insure requirements for those projects include Complete Streets specifications.
- Insure compliance to the requirements during construction.
- Establish accountability for performance.
- Review Michigan laws regarding bicycles (i.e. definition etc.) and laws relating to bicycle traffic. Other states such as Colorado and Idaho have more contemporary laws.
  - "3 Foot Clearance Law", e.g. motor vehicles must pass bicyclists with a minimum 3 foot clearance.
  - "Stop as Yield" law for bicyclists such as enacted in Idaho last year.
- Utilize the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) and its member organizations such as bicycle clubs in the planning process.
- Support The Grand Vision process here in the Grand Traverse Region. Help us implement the elements of The Grand Vision. MDOT has supported this local public process.

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club offers its help and through its Safety and Education Committee. CCCC and TART, Trails have collaborated on local bicycle and pedestrian



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initiatives and will continue to do so. The Cherry Capital Cycling Club is based in Traverse City and has about 500 members throughout the Grand Traverse region.

The Cherry Capital Cycling Club can be contacted through me at the above address, via e-mail at [safetyandeducation@cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org](mailto:safetyandeducation@cherrycapitalcyclingclub.org) or via phone on (231) 642-7957.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Schaafsma".

Fred Schaafsma  
Safety and Education Director