



## Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Pam Byrnes, Chair & Members  
House Transportation Committee

FROM: Adam Goldberg, Senior Legislative Representative – National Office  
Felicia Wasson, Associate State Director-Government Affairs – AARP Michigan

DATE: May 27, 2010

RE: Support for HB 6151 – Proposed “Complete Streets” Legislation

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AARP is committed to advancing travel choices that meet the growing mobility needs in communities across the country and to make those communities more livable. Complete streets help to achieve that. We have an opportunity, with this legislation, to make complete streets the rule, not the exception.

A complete street represents the community itself: all transportation options are included and integrated in a complete street’s design. A complete street allows pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users of all ages and abilities to use streets and roadways, and the right of way is designed and operated for safe access for all users. Some examples of a complete street include: improved lighting; enhanced visibility; medians to enhance safety; wide, raised sidewalks; ramps to crosswalks; raised crosswalks; bike lanes; recessed bus stops; and on-street parking. What any complete street will feature is related to the context of that street and that neighborhood. It is not a one-size-fits-all concept.

However there are some concerns that we have that are included in the H-1 substitute. These concerns are listed here:

- Future need vs. “likely level of use” – Requiring that the agency behind the project take into consideration future need for complete streets – as that phrase clearly requires – is extremely important. We therefore suggest that the legislation be amended to clearly state that future need be taken into consideration when deciding if this exemption should be applicable.
- Exemption provision – We would suggest that the legislation make it clear that the documentation be made available to the public. Additionally, it should be required that any exemption be approved by a manager in the agency overseeing the project.
- Reference to our organization should read “AARP” instead of American Association of Retired Persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on HB 6151