JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
LANSING

ANDRE ROBINSON
CHAIRPERSON
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 27, 2010

Honorable Pam Byrnes
Michigan State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Honorable Byrnes:

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is a 21-member group appointed by the governor and empowered by federal law to advocate for people with developmental disabilities and is requesting your support of House Bills 6151 and 6152. The legislation was introduced to encourage communities to consider nonmotorized and public transit accommodations to our transportation corridors in state, regional, and local planning as a way to create more walkable, bikeable places where all residents can be physically active.

Complete streets policies ensure that infrastructure is designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit consumers of all ages can move safely along and across a **complete** street. This includes persons with various types of disabilities including those who are visually and or deaf or hard of hearing, use mobility devices such as wheelchairs and walkers.

Complete Streets boost the economy by increasing residential property values because homeowners are willing to pay more to live in walkable communities and businesses located along Complete Streets often see an increase in sales. Complete Streets improve safety and reduce crashes by

providing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, such as safe crossings, sidewalks, or on-road bicycle lanes.

Complete Streets promote public health by making it safe and convenient for children and families to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives as a way to combat the obesity epidemic.

Clearly, supporting Complete Streets is investing in a stronger and healthier Michigan. Persons with disabilities benefit from accessible sidewalks and paths. They choose to live in more accessible communities, and to spend their money there. It is vitally important for access to public transit.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council endorses the concept of Compete Streets because its' policies removes barriers to independent travel by considering the needs of all users at the outset of every transportation project. The council, through its Transportation Work Group has joined the Complete Streets Coalition.

On behalf of the council I urge you to support Compete Streets in Michigan. It is important for all residents to live a healthy life.

Sincerely,

Andre K. Robinson

Mr. Andre K. Robinson
Chairperson