



Reimagine Washtenaw  
Washtenaw County  
PO Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645  
734.222.3860

May 4, 2012

Senator Robertson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Local Government  
320 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Robertson;

The Reimagine Washtenaw communities respectfully request the Senate Committee on Local Government and the full Senate to consider action and allow full approval of HB 5142 prior to June 1, 2012.

Reimagine Washtenaw, made up of local elected officials and staff from the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and Pittsfield and Ypsilanti Townships working with the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, Michigan Department of Transportation, Washtenaw County, and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study has been active for more than four years working to improve a congested commercial corridor. This corridor is I-94 BL/M-17 Washtenaw Avenue in eastern Washtenaw County. The corridor not only connects the two cities and two universities but also has among the highest traffic volumes and highest transit ridership in Washtenaw County. The Reimagine Washtenaw communities also engaged the business community (recently adding a member from the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Chamber) and the residents living along the corridor in the planning process through specialized outreach meetings.

Together, these communities worked to prepare a vision for the corridor that is sustainable, providing living options, transportation options, access management options, and a plan for addressing environmental concerns. The communities and transportation partners completed or are using the following plans to guide their efforts.

- Reimagine Washtenaw Corridor Strategy
- Washtenaw Avenue Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Washtenaw Access Management Plan



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The group has worked to standardize master plans, zoning and development expectations, implement non-motorized improvements, implement transit improvements (increased service in January), prepared joint federal grants for implementation (receiving an award from HUD), and each community has approved a resolution with the intent to form a Corridor Improvement Authority (2011).

Locally, numerous efforts are underway that could benefit from a joint Corridor Improvement Authority, including transit priority, non-motorized improvements, encouraging transportation-oriented developments (TOD), providing developer incentives, and implementing the green infrastructure and access management plans. The Reimagine Washtenaw communities would like to move forward with these implementation options soon and respectfully request the Committee to consider action and allow full approval prior to June 1, 2012.

Kind regards,

Tony Derezinski

Tony Derezinski, Councilmember  
City of Ann Arbor

Paul J. Schreiber

Paul Schreiber, Mayor  
City of Ypsilanti

Karen Lovejoy Roe

Karen Lovejoy Roe, Clerk  
Ypsilanti Township