



September 17, 2014

Senate Appropriations Committee  
Lansing, MI

**Re: SB 1016**

Dear Senator:

The Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) is a coalition of over 70 environmental, conservation and faith-based organizations located across Michigan. These organizations place a high priority on transportation issues, and particularly passenger and non-motorized transportation issues, as key to Michigan's environment, economic success and quality of life.

MEC understands the economic development potential that can be realized by investing in Michigan's complete transportation system. We appreciate the extension of funding to the Transportation Economic Development Fund provided by Senate Bill 1016; however, we believe there is an opportunity for this bill to have greater economic development impacts by strategically directing some of that investment into passenger and non-motorized transportation projects.

As you know, the bill directs money from the fund into several categories, all of which explicitly focus on the maintenance and expansion of roads and streets.

There is no category within SB 1016 that allocates money specifically to non-road projects, despite the wealth of data that shows the direct correlation between economic development and passenger and non-motorized transportation projects. Specifically, investments in these modes of transportation enhance talent attraction and increase access to jobs – both pillars in Michigan's comeback.

Two ways that SB 1016 could address these issues would be to:

1. Create a category within the TEDF to allocate money specifically for passenger and non-motorized transportation projects.
2. Require that all road projects funded with the TEDF be designed to comply with Michigan's Complete Streets statute (Public Acts 134 and 135).

The Michigan Environmental Council is happy to work with you on incorporating these proposed changes into the bill or discussing other options to address the issue. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. As always, we are available to answer any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Kolb, President