



Friends of the Border to Border Trail

[www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)

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Dear Members Of The Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Friends Of The Border To Border Trail, a group dedicated to completing, enhancing and promoting the use of the Border To Border Trail in Washtenaw County, urges you to vote in favor of SB1029, SB1030, and SB1078. This legislation would require drivers training to include motorist awareness of bicyclists and protect vulnerable roadway users.

The Border To Border Trail spans across Washtenaw County roughly following the Huron River for most of its length and accommodates bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users. While the goal is to eventually have the Trail completely off road, reaching this target is still years away. In the meantime much of the Trail is routed using public roads with the associated risks that involves.

Many of the Border To Border Trail users could be considered "casual" bicyclists, those who only occasionally ride on roads. To these users, traveling on an on-road segment of the Trail and having motorists pass them only inches away, being yelled at to "get off the road" (or much worse) or having things thrown at them, is especially unnerving, especially when children are involved. And then too are motorists driving who are completely disengaged from actually driving as they go down roads texting, talking on their cell phones, checking the internet or eating lunch.

Quite frankly, Michigan bicyclists and pedestrians are literally dieing for the lack of legal protections that would be a major deterrent to unsafe motorist behavior.

Again, we urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to strongly support of SB1029, SB1030, and SB1078. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bob Krzewinski

Chairman

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail