

Wolver-Bents Recumbent Bicyclists

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Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members

As Coordinator of the Wolver-Bent Recumbent Bicyclists, a statewide group who's members ride recumbent bicycles and tricycles (sitting in a chair-like seat), I urge you to strongly support SB1029, SB1030, SB1076, SB1077, and SB1078. As you are aware these bills would establish a five-foot standard for motorists passing bicyclists, require drivers training to include motorist awareness of bicyclists, and protect vulnerable roadway users.

Many of our members routinely report instances of offensive behavior of motorists towards bicyclists that could result in injury or death. Unfortunately much of this motorist behavior is due to anger geared towards anyone riding a bicycle.

Then there are motorists that are so distracted by their mobile devices (or other behavior) that driving the car becomes a secondary. As a retired thirty-year airline Captain one cardinal rule in any airliner is that at all times either the Captain or First Officer must "fly the airplane" while other tasks are either performed by the other crewmember or postponed to a non-critical time. But at any time on our roads, many motorists have things on their mind other than "driving the car". This is despite the fact that even 2-3 seconds of driving distraction can result in a motorist being involved in a crash, sometimes with a cyclist. And to put this in perspective, to lose control of an airliner takes perhaps as a minimum 15 seconds in a worse case scenario.

Commercial aviation has been made incredibly safe by some simple formulas, that being establishing regulations that are based on safety, educating pilots about those rules, and when all else fails, taking enforcement action.

I urge you to consider this formula when it comes to the safety of bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users in Michigan. Pass into law rules that protect vulnerable users and give cyclists a 5-foot passing vehicle buffer. Educate motorists about these laws through driver education and when all else fails, using law enforcement and the courts enforce the penalties of violating the law.

Again, on behalf of Michigan recumbent riders I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to strongly support of SB1029, SB1030, SB1076, SB1077, and SB1078. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Krzewinski

Chairman

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail