



December 2, 2013

Dear Mayor Hieftje and Ann Arbor City Council:

As organizations and individuals committed to supporting safe, livable communities, we are alarmed to discover that City Council is considering a repeal of our current pedestrian crossing ordinance. We are joining with the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition to voice our opposition to a repeal of our current crossing ordinance. A repeal will do nothing to make pedestrians safer in our community, it is only likely to further confuse both drivers and pedestrians. We believe crosswalks should be safe and usable for everyone, including the most vulnerable in our community such as seniors, children and individuals with disabilities, not just those who can dash across the street between gaps in traffic.

In 2010, Ann Arbor City Council demonstrated leadership in the region by unanimously voting for a clear, safe pedestrian crossing ordinance that works for everyone. Council demonstrated leadership in showing that unsafe walking conditions for pedestrians are counter to our community values. We urge you to reaffirm your commitment to pedestrian safety and our current crossing ordinance.

We encourage Ann Arbor City Council and city staff to utilize national best practices and seek the guidance of national walkability experts in developing a comprehensive plan for pedestrian safety in our community. We believe a strong plan will include traffic enforcement focused on lowering traffic speeds, reducing distracted driving, ticketing drivers who don't stop at crosswalks, greater education for all road users, and visible, appropriately signed and engineered crosswalks. Our coalition of organizations is committed to assisting the city on city-wide communication measures to spread awareness and increase compliance with our current crossing ordinance.

Sincerely,

Erica Briggs, Chair of the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition

Cathi Duchon, CEO Ann Arbor Y

Matt Grocoff, Principal, THRIVE Net Zero Energy Collaborative

University of Michigan Urban Planning Student Association

