



Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

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July 2, 2015

The Honorable Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Speaker  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Riffe Center, 14th Floor  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Support for House Bill 154

Dear Speaker Rosenberger:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) strives to have in place a world-class transportation system that connects Central Ohio's people and products to the world. That is why we continue to advocate not only in favor of a multi-modal system with a broad array of options, but also in favor of policies that improve transportation safety.

Among the many transportation options available, biking continues to be a preferred method of travel, as well as a favorite activity for those living in the region. For this reason, I write in support of House Bill 154.

House Bill 154 is a simple and straightforward bill – sponsored by Rep. Henne – specifying that a safe distance for a vehicle to pass by a bicyclist is at least three feet. We believe that ensuring such a distance can save lives while also raising awareness of cyclist safety. The bill also contains provisions regarding the right-of-way process of vehicle operators when a traffic signal at an intersection is malfunctioning. These provisions will improve the efficiency of Ohio's transportation network.

The City of Columbus has passed similar legislation regarding the three-foot passing distance. MORPC has supported the city's efforts to improve the safety of roadways in Central Ohio, and we believe that a statewide approach is also warranted.

House Bill 154 has already passed through the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. MORPC, on behalf of the 60 local government members and regional organizations it represents, respectfully requests that the legislation receives a full House vote following the summer recess.

As this issue and other discussions regarding transportation safety take place in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by calling (614) 233-4101 or emailing [wmurdock@morpc.org](mailto:wmurdock@morpc.org).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Mike Henne  
Sen. Troy Balderson

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips  
Chair

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Vice Chair

Rory McGuinness  
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