



Contact Mike Unsworth
Telephone 517-282-7515
Email advocacy@biketcba.org
Website biketcba.org/advocacy

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**SAFE PASSING DISTANCE FOR BICYCLISTS
IS THE GOAL IN
CLINTON, EATON, AND INGHAM COUNTIES**

Campaign Will Make The Area's Roads Safer

Lansing, MI, February 25, 2017– The Tri-County Bicycle Association announced today that it is embarking on convincing local governments in the Tri-County Region to pass Five Foot Safe Passing Distances ordinances. Such legislation is needed to ensure that drivers do not create unsafe conditions by passing cyclists too closely.

The most common type of bicycle/auto crashes is when a bicyclist was “going straight ahead” prior to a crash. Large vehicles produce strong air currents which can knock cyclists off course if they pass too closely. This is especially dangerous given the bad conditions of our area's roads. Many motorists are unaware of the dangers posed by their actions. Others intentionally pass closely to intimidate bicyclists.

Michigan law is inadequate because it gives a motorist a loose standard: “pass at a safe distance.” Moreover, law enforcement is put in a difficult situation. Patrol officers do not have a clearly defined standard.

Over the past several years TCBA has supported the League of Michigan's Bicyclists' efforts to pass a statewide passing law protecting riders. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not enacted such a law.

"It is now up to local governments to do what the State Legislature has failed to do: pass safe passing ordinances that promote road safety." Michael Unsworth, Chair, TCBA Advocacy Committee

A Five-Foot Passing Ordinance would set the legal standard for "safe distance." Motorists, bicyclists and law enforcement would get clear guidance that would reduce confusion and frustration. It will allow motorists to cross a center line, including a double yellow line, to safely pass a bicyclist. Thus, it will reduce bicyclist injuries and deaths.

For more information, go to: biketcba.org/SafePassing.

With over 900 members, TCBA is the largest local bicycling organization in Michigan. TCBA is dedicated to promoting the use of bicycles for healthful recreation and transportation, and promoting public awareness of bicyclists' rights and responsibilities. The Association hosts the Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw (DALMAC) bicycle tour, held annually over the Labor Day weekend, as well as four other tours. Proceeds from DALMAC have enabled The DALMAC Fund to grant over \$1 million to bicycling-related organizations and causes since 1985. The TCBA Advocacy Committee works with governments and businesses to improve the bicycling environment in Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties.

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