



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee
House Bill 154

Written Proponent Testimony
William Murdock, Executive Director of MORPC

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Cafaro, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Labor Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written proponent testimony on House Bill 154.

My name is William Murdock, the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Our agency works with Central Ohio's local governments to ensure a world-class transportation system that connects our residents to their jobs and communities. In our work to provide a range of transportation options, interest and participation in biking continues to grow as a popular and healthy way to travel. With more riders on both roads and trails, our concern for safety for all users is more urgent than ever, whether in cars or on bicycles. Safety needs to be a top priority as too many of our loved ones continue to suffer serious injury or death from bike-car collisions. For their safety, we strongly urge you to support HB154.

HB154 is a simple, but critical piece of legislation that specifies a safe and consistent distance of at least three feet for a vehicle to pass by a bicyclist. We believe that this safe distance will save lives while also raising awareness of bicyclist safety by making the rules statewide simple and easy to understand for both drivers and bicyclists alike.

The City of Columbus passed similar legislation last year and we applaud the City for their commitment to safety. In order to ensure that bicyclists receive the same passing distance no matter where they bike, a statewide legislation, like HB154, is critical in improving safety across Ohio.

In addition, HB154 contains provisions regarding the right-of-way process of vehicle operators when a traffic signal at an intersection is malfunctioning. This bill would update the law so that drivers and bicyclists follow the same rules for proceeding into an intersection when the weight detectors are malfunctioning. Again, by making things simple and consistent, we expect these provisions will enhance the efficiency and safety of Ohio's transportation network.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Matt Greeson
Chair

Rory McGuiness
Vice Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Secretary

HB154 will save lives and make things easier for everyone on our roads. We thank you again for the opportunity to express our strong support for this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me, at 614-233- 4101 or at wmurdock@morpc.org, with any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director