

Steven Michalovich  
HB 436  
Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
Attention: Committee Chair, Doug Green

In March, I plead on social media to anyone who lives in a “community” to slow down, be present and maintain caution for all pedestrians and cyclists. We are all members of some “community”, so this applies to anyone.

I’m a runner and a cyclist. As a father, sometimes my two young children accompany me. I’m a suburban resident, but my day job turns me into an urbanite. As someone who run and bikes regularly in both suburbia and Columbus’ vibrant urban core, I wish I could say cars nearly hitting me when I have the right of way as a pedestrian isn’t a major concern. Sadly this is a very common occurrence, typically resulting in equal (if not more) outrage from the motorist. The irony that responsibility to look out for the safety of other human beings is lost for someone operating a motorized vehicle weighing over a ton never escapes me.

Safety is mine and most people’s top barometer for the quality of a neighborhood. The personal vehicle isn’t going away anytime soon, but safety must extend beyond crime to feeling at ease riding a bike or pushing a stroller in a crosswalk. Communities aren’t great because you can drive really fast through them. Communities are great because you can experience a safe sense of place within them. This typically doesn’t occur speeding down a road.

I support House Bill 436, because it gives the power to a community who experiences a given thoroughfare daily to rally their neighbors and fellow residents and dictate what a safe street means to them by granting them the ability to adjust speed limits and introduce stop signs if they are warranted.

Passing this Bill would be a momentous step in pedestrians, motorists and cyclists of our Ohio communities operating harmoniously together.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Steve