



Re: Support HB 5061 and 5062

Dear Representatives:

The Michigan Environmental Council is a coalition of 70 environmental, conservation and faith-based organizations located across Michigan. We advocate for advancing transportation options in Michigan such as public transportation, pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure, car-sharing, and more as a means to increase access to opportunity and advance Michigan's environmental prosperity.

The passage of HB 5061 and 5062 will effectively enable the success of bus rapid transit (BRT) by allowing bus-only lanes on state trunkline highways and making those lane designations enforceable.

BRT is a public transit service that is often described as a hybrid between fixed bus lines and light rail—combining the efficiency of a light rail service and the low cost and flexibility of traditional bus service. Designated lanes, along with other elements such as level boarding stations (which allow riders of all abilities to quickly and easily walk or wheel onto the bus), off-board ticketing and traffic signal prioritization make BRT a highly efficient public transportation option for communities that choose it; providing an easy and fast way for people to get to work, school, medical appointments, go shopping or visit friends and family.

Because of its efficiency and attractiveness, BRT boasts many economic development benefits and increases property values in a way that traditional bus lines do not. In Cleveland, the Healthline BRT has helped to catalyze more than \$6.3 billion in development along its corridor which connects major medical, job and education centers. The Silverline BRT in Grand Rapids (the first and only BRT service currently in Michigan) has helped attract new transit riders in its first year of service while developing BRT projects in both Lansing and metro Detroit are spurring early, yet promising, discussions about development and serious improvements to job access along the routes.

The passage of HB 5061 and 5062 is a small measure that will have a big impact on communities that chose to expand transportation options through BRT.

As always, we are happy to answer any questions you may have or otherwise work with you on a solution to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Hammond".

Sean Hammond, Deputy Policy Director
Liz Treutel, Policy Associate
Michigan Environmental Council