



**PedalPub, LLC**  
5115 Excelsior Blvd, #457  
St.Louis Park, MN 55416-2906

May 3, 2016

Dear Council Member of the City of Ann Arbor,

We are PedalPub® LLC – the company that imports that vehicle that Mr. Dave Cicotte of High Five Pedal Tours uses for his business. We have been importing party bikes from Fietscave, NL of the Netherlands since 2007, as such, we are the oldest party bike business in the United States.

We are writing on behalf of Mr. David Cicotte, owner of High Five Pedal Tours in Ann Arbor, MI. The focus of this letter is to discuss the increased risk for injury when safety belts (seat belts) are used on commercial quadricycles. Below are a few risk factors which could contribute to increased injury by use of seat belts on a commercial quadricycle:

1. Belted passengers would have a higher incidence/risk of injury due to:
  - a. Having to use both hands to put the seat belt on
  - b. Becoming entangled in seat belt while mounting or dismounting, causing serious back injuries
2. There is no evidence that seat belts have ever been used on bicycle seats to prevent injury
3. Seat belts are designed to stop vehicle occupants from hitting interior elements of the vehicle, which does not apply to the Fietscave party bike design, nor any other commercial quadricycle we're aware of
4. Seatbelts are designed to keep vehicle occupants correctly positioned for an airbag

One city Mr. Cicotte had recommended that the City of Ann Arbor Liquor License Review Committee (Liquor Commission) looked to was Grand Rapids. We would like to point out that while the City of Grand Rapids makes it mandatory for commercial quadricycles to be equipped with seat belts, it does not make it mandatory for passengers to wear them. It is the passenger's choice to accept or decline the use of a seat belt, and they indicate their choice when filling out a liability waiver before the tour.

Safety is always the number one priority for all PedalPub® tours, as is with all High Five Pedal Tours'. Mr. Cicotte currently offers passengers the choice to wear a bicycle helmet or not. We feel strongly that if you are going to keep seat belts in the ordinance, that it should not be required or mandatory for passengers or drivers to wear them, and leave the choice to their personal responsibility.

One other item – we noticed that in early drafts of your proposed ordinance, you referred to the vehicles as “pedal pubs.” We are grateful that you changed the terminology as PedalPub® is a registered trademark of our company. We appreciate that you do not refer generically to the vehicles as “pedal pubs” in any of your communications regarding this ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration. Let us know if we can be of any help in your research.

Al Boyce, Managing Partner  
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<http://www.PedalPubPartyBikes.com>