

Transportation Commission Recommendations Regarding Michigan Statewide Crosswalk Laws January 2020

Background

City Council has requested that the Ann Arbor Transportation Commission (TC) review and make recommendations on both city and statewide regulations for motorist and pedestrian interaction at crosswalks. The TC voted in support of Ann Arbor's current crosswalk ordinance on April 17, 2019¹. The current local ordinance requires motorists to stop for pedestrians waiting to cross at a crosswalk, as well as pedestrians in the crosswalk. Currently, the State of Michigan does not have a crosswalk law. Municipalities may adopt the Michigan Uniform Traffic Code, which requires only that drivers yield to pedestrians within a crosswalk. There have been multiple proposals to create/amend the state's crosswalk laws, such as House Bill No. 4738, and each time, the TC has been asked to review and make a recommendation to Council. The TC provided recommendations regarding HB4738 on July 17, 2019².

Recommendations

The Ann Arbor Transportation Commission supports the adoption of a statewide crosswalk bill, provided the bill meets the following conditions:

- The bill does not supersede local ordinances that have more stringent stopping requirements for crosswalks;
- The bill requires motorists on both sides of the street to stop for pedestrians waiting at the crosswalk, and does not require pedestrians to have any part of their person or belongings in the roadway in order for vehicles to stop OR the bill includes the curb, curb ramp or curb line in its definition of the crosswalk;
- The bill does not abolish or nullify the use of pedestrian activated beacons at crosswalks;
- When a vehicle is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the bill requires that the driver of another vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake or pass the stopped vehicle.
- The bill does not increase penalties for pedestrians crossing without a crosswalk OR the bill reduces penalties for pedestrians crossing without a crosswalk.

The Ann Arbor Transportation Commission does not support a state crosswalk bill that does not meet these conditions.

¹ See Transportation Commission Crosswalk Ordinance History.pdf from the April 17, 2019 [agenda materials](#) for additional history of the Transportation Commission actions related to the Crosswalk Ordinance.

² See HB 4738 – Combined Recommendation FINAL.pdf from the July 17, 2019 [agenda materials](#).