

MOBILITY

Over the past decade, the mobility sector has continued its rise as a major contributor to overall greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. In 2017, it surpassed the energy sector as the top emitter.

But the world also stands on the cusp of a new age of mobility. Michigan Environmental Council recognizes the unique importance of the mobility sector in Michigan and has worked for years to help build a sustainable transportation system that focuses on moving people to where they want to go safely and efficiently. Promoting ideas like a Michigan coast-to-coast rail line and the Regional Transit Authority, and working with partners to build communities that are great places to live, work and play make Michigan Environmental Council a leader in the world of sustainable mobility.

Land Use and Infrastructure

How we design our infrastructure determines how it is utilized, more so than any law governing how people drive or interact on the roads. If we are to move Michigan into the future of mobility and provide options that are safe for all modes of travel, it starts with how our roads are built and cities are designed. It is unsurprising that as the automobile state we have predominantly built our cities for cars only, but it is time to start shrinking our streets and making mobility-friendly communities.

Michigan Environmental Council advocates for:

- Enacting a [Complete Streets 2.0](#) policy statewide that incorporates new mobility and [Vision Zero](#) designs.
- Urging city and state planners to consider the effects of autonomous and electric vehicles prior to planning any further street expansion, construction or parking capacity.
- Implementing holistic transportation funding focused on moving people safely, not moving cars as fast as possible.
- Mandating “fix-it first” and “road diet” policies to ensure that we maintain and shrink the amount of infrastructure we have instead of continuing the unsustainable build-out of our roads.



Public Transit and Passenger Rail

Michigan Environmental Council has long been an advocate for public transit and intercity passenger rail growth. Transit is needed not only in our city centers but in rural areas to

connect those who struggle to reach basic necessities such as medicine and groceries. Transit also helps retain talent, as more and more young people are choosing to forgo owning a vehicle and seek out cities where this is feasible.

Michigan Environmental Council advocates for:

- Supporting the next iteration of regional transit in southeast Michigan, which will ultimately lead to more young talent staying in the state.
- Supporting a full feasibility study for a coast-to-coast passenger rail line to connect Holland to Detroit.
- Ensuring that public transit gets a full share of funding through our statewide transportation funding formula.



Non-Motorized Transportation

An often overlooked part of our transportation infrastructure are the roads and trails utilized by pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized transportation users. As we seek more livable and connected cities, having the ability to get safely from work to home by biking or walking is becoming more of a priority for the next generation of talent. Michigan should also embrace the tourism draw of safe routes for cyclists to recreate around our great state, a world-class home to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Michigan Environmental Council advocates for:

- Maintaining the state's funding formula for non-motorized improvements, which also benefit traffic by widening lanes and creating better flow around cyclists.
- Encouraging the connection of local and statewide trail systems to downtown areas.
- Creating further dedicated state funding for non-motorized infrastructure for all users as we rebuild our crumbling transportation infrastructure.



CONTACT

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