



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

300 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Ste. 300 Toledo, Ohio 43604

P.O. Box 9508 Toledo, OH 43697-9508

Phone 419.241.9155 • Fax 419.241.9116 • www.tmacog.org

September 24, 2019

The Honorable Stephen Hambley
The Honorable Don Manning
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Hambley and Representative Manning:

The legislation to amend eminent domain laws under House Bill 288, is of great concern to the Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). If passed, this bill will not only take away the ability to utilize eminent domain for recreational trails, it will prohibit jurisdictions from planning for and building important infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists in the future. Walking and biking are primary modes of transportation for a great number of people in Ohio, and House Bill 288 will put local jurisdictions at a disadvantage in providing safe and connected infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The TMACOG “On the Move – 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan” contains numerous trails that would help make connections in the statewide bicycle network and are important pieces of community and regional trail systems. Communities only use eminent domain as an action of last resort on these types of projects and it is rarely used. However, it is of vital importance that communities and park districts have the ability to use eminent domain for the overall good of the communities and constituents they serve.

The Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee of TMACOG strongly opposes House Bill 288.

Thank you for your service and time.

Sincerely,

David Gedeon, AICP, Vice President of Transportation
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

LD:DG:jc