



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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April 7, 2023

The Honorable Terry Canales
Chair, House Transportation Committee
Texas House of Representatives

RE: Support for HB 421 relating to the operation of a motor vehicle passing a pedestrian or a person operating a bicycle.

Dear Chairman Canales:

Transportation safety is an important issue across the State and one that is quickly getting out of our control. Texas is on the leading edge of this disturbing and deadly trend with someone dying on our state's roads every day since 2000. This is unacceptable, especially since we have the power to take reasonable measures to protect the safety of Texans.

Pedestrian and bicyclists are among the most vulnerable road users because they aren't equipped with protective equipment such as airbags, seat belts, and bumpers. In 2021, there were over 7,500 crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in our state, resulting in nearly 1,000 deaths.

Motorists overtaking pedestrians and bicyclists are consistently the most common cause of death for people who walk and bike. A majority of states have adopted Safe Passing Laws including Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and more. Unfortunately, Texas has fallen behind when it comes to protecting our residents because there is no Safe Passing statute currently in place.

We strongly favor passage of House Bill 421, authored by Representative Ray Lopez. HB 421 seeks to reduce deaths and injuries by promoting overall safe behavior on Texas roadways. This is an important step in increasing the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists in Houston and throughout the state.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

David Fields

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David Fields, AICP

Chief Transportation Planner

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Veronica O. Davis

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Veronica O. Davis, PE

Director, Transportation & Drainage Operations