



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LA CROSSE

September 27, 2017

The La Crosse Neighborhood Revitalization Commission supports 2017 Wisconsin State Assembly Bill 201, which increases penalties for numerous motor vehicle moving violations involving vulnerable users of roads and streets.

The La Crosse Neighborhood Revitalization Commission supports proposed state-level legislation to enhance penalties for drivers convicted of severely injuring or killing a person through a moving-vehicle traffic violation. Some people who might be especially vulnerable when they cross or use streets include seniors, school-age children, the visually impaired, first responders, law enforcement officers aiding motorists or writing tickets, road and public works employees, bus riders, cyclists, people using crosswalks, or anyone who needs more time to cross streets. The 2013 Wisconsin Act 253 defined these “vulnerable highway users” but did not set out punishments for actions that endangered them. The enhanced punishments in AB 201 include increased fines, longer suspension of operating privileges, and completion of a right-of-way course. This bill provides a middle alternative for prosecutors between simple traffic tickets and charges for negligent homicide statutes. After all, in Wisconsin every corner is a crosswalk even if it does not have painted lines, signs, or stoplights.

Many of us on this Commission have served in neighborhood associations that promote accessibility of all neighborhood resources to all residents. Ironically, most of the associations are geographically defined by street boundaries. But we want these streets to be more than barriers and places of danger for their legal users. Additionally, both individuals and municipal budgets benefit from neighborhoods with diverse and dense uses of resources including streets themselves.

Therefore, we support passage of AB 201.

Sincerely,

Tim Kabat
Mayor
Chair, Neighborhood Revitalization Commission