



peopleforbikes

March 7, 2023

Representative Cook, Chairman
Representative Martinez, Vice Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Subject: Opposition to SB1312, Related to Vehicle Mileage Tracking and Prohibitions

Dear Chairman Cook and Vice Chairman Martinez,

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, I write to you in strong opposition to SB1312, that if signed into law, would prohibit the state and any municipality from setting goals around reducing or tracking Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

The PeopleForBikes Coalition is the national advocacy group that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We are the sole national trade association, representing over 320 manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors of bicycle products and representing over 1.4 million riders in the U.S. We work to make bike riding a safer and more inclusive activity for everyone, which includes preserving funding sources and public space for alternatives to driving.

SB1312 removes a critical lever for creating a more environmentally sustainable future in Arizona. Single-occupancy vehicles are undeniably important in reducing Arizona's carbon emissions. A 2018 report by Maricopa County found that personal automobiles accounted for 25% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the County¹. Reducing these emissions is critical to preserving the health of Arizona's natural environment and quality of life for its residents, including air quality and vulnerability to increasingly extreme weather conditions.

VMTs are seen as a key marker of vehicle usage, nationally and internationally, and many places use it to anchor their environmentally-focused transportation goals. At least 16 states², including Nevada and New Mexico, have set goals around reducing their VMT or are tracking this data. In 2019, New Mexico created their Climate Strategy that included a goal to cut VMT by 15% by 2027, noting the need for transportation options beyond personal vehicles³. Most states simply use VMT data as an indicator of cutting emissions in the transportation sector, and as an additional tool for evaluating the effectiveness of investments in other transportation choices like public transit and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Even maintaining the option of this important data point would become illegal in Arizona if SB1312 passes.

¹ ["Maricopa County 2018 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory"](#), 2018, pg 3

² ["Transportation System Efficiency"](#), American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, 2022

³ ["New Mexico Climate Strategy"](#), New Mexico Interagency Climate Change Task Force, 2019, pg 12

I strongly urge you to oppose this legislation, which would remove an essential tool from Arizona's arsenal to understand the transportation sector's role in climate change and the state's environmental future. Thank you again for your leadership and attention on this important issue. We would be grateful for the opportunity to continue this conversation with you, alongside local advocates, around helping Arizona truly meet the transportation needs of all its residents.

I appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Kyler Blodgett
State & Local Policy Analyst
PeopleForBikes Coalition