

From: [Don Wallace](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Cc: [MO Chapter, Thomas Hart Benton Group ExCom; Clerk](#)
Subject: Proposed Ordinance 230613: Support for passage by Council
Date: Friday, July 28, 2023 7:46:37 AM

July 21, 2023

Mayor Quinton Lucas and
Council Members of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee
City Hall 414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

On behalf of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter and its members and supporters in Kansas City, this letter is written to express strong support for two proposed ordinances that are currently before your consideration: Ordinance 230613 and Resolution 230618. We favor both of these pieces of legislation because they are essential to the success of efforts to lower citywide carbon emissions.

We support Ordinance 230613 because it enables the city to continue building a network of facilities to support safer, cleaner transportation options. This legislation calls for adopting the updated Pedestrian, Cyclist, and Vehicular Traffic Safety Plan for installing and designing safer transit routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicular drivers and passengers. As is noted in the City's climate protection and resiliency plan, **transportation is the city's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Lowering these emissions requires the City to provide for more options** for people to safely shift modes from automobile driving alone.

We also support Resolution 230618 because it will make it easier to envision more spaces in our City for sustainable purposes. By this Resolution, Council would call upon the City Manager to conduct a citywide road diet analysis and produce preliminary design implementing safety improvements of existing undivided streets with four or more lanes to determine the suitability of converting these streets into three-reduced lane streets. Along with being aligned with the goals of ongoing policies of greater safety seen with Vision Zero Action Plan and greater livability with the City's Livable Streets and Complete Streets policies, we recognize a multitude of environmentally-conscious results arising from the spaces created by road diets. These environmental benefits include increasing the viability of alternatives to automobile driving and the planting of trees that will add to the city's canopy. **Sustainability, along with transportation safety, can and must be accomplished in various ways in order for Kansas City to effectively confront the climate crisis.** This legislation will serve to make such goals possible.

The Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly urges the City Council to support passage of both Ordinance 230613 and Resolution 230618. Kansas City has made a commitment to addressing climate change. This commitment can only become a reality by implementing the goals of these two proposed pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee, Thomas Hart Benton Group
Missouri Chapter of the Sierra Club

//cc: KCMO City Clerk