From: Matthew Stephens
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance #230092
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:46:19 PM

Dear City Council City Council,

I entreat you to oppose Ordinance 230092 and to ensure that the Truman Road protected bike lanes are preserved and completed. Here's why:

1. Solutions to address the issues and concerns of Truman Road business owners have not had the chance to be implemented.

2. Tearing out the work that has already been completed is fiscally irresponsible, an embarrassment to the city. It also encourages people who don't get their way to use bullying to overpower the will and common good of the community at large.

3. Tearing out the bike lanes on Truman Road will jeopardize Kansas City's ability to access future federal funding and to attract development investments.

4. Truman Road protected bike lanes are the most affordable option to a problem that the city is mandated to solve—reducing traffic fatalities on the third deadliest street in the city.

The way this situation is being handled by 3rd District council members is a disgrace to public service, a disservice to those in the community who cannot afford to own and operate a car of their own as well as to those choosing to use more eco-friendly, sustainable, economical, and safe (to others) modes of transportation.

Regarding the public input/engagement processes: simply put, they need a lot of work. First, they need to be wholly reconceived strategically. Current processes are inequitable, because they place an undue burden on citizens, especially those striving to make ends meet. Our least advantaged citizens lack the resources needed to avail themselves of the means the city has provided for public input. They do not have time to spare to attend meetings or keep up with email. They aren't following the city on social media. They need human beings to come to them and solicit their input in-person.

Once we've fixed the equity problem, we must commit to defined procedures for how the data is aggregated, analyzed, shared with the community, and acted upon. When these processes are complete and decisions are made, they must be honored, regardless of how big a tantrum those who disagree with the outcomes might throw. The city must stand in solidarity with the public in defense of the common good, even and especially in the face of bullying tactics from selfish, immature, close-minded, short-sighted individuals who stand in the way of progress and at odds with established procedure and the will of the public at large.

Thanks for your consideration. I will not be at the public meeting, because of work and child care commitments.

Regards,
Matthew Stephens
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