From: Ellen Schwartze
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Support Ordinance 230400
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 8:57:01 PM

Hello,

As a parent, cyclist, and person who wants to see a safer Kansas City for all road users, I urge you to support Ordinance 230400 to waive the 90-day engagement requirement affecting installation of bike lanes along Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

I use the Gillham Cycle Track and Trolley Trail for several reasons - to commute, to take my kid to daycare, to run errands, and for fun. I live near UMKC, so the gap between these trails is a regular hurdle. I am someone who prioritizes cycling and am confident riding on city streets, and even I think the route options between the two trails are dangerous and cumbersome for riders and pedestrians. A dedicated and protected option will make the route safer for all road users -- drivers, too.

Waiting 90 days for this particular connection would mean we miss most of May, and all of June and July, when KC riding is at peak numbers; the weather is better, kids are out of school, and KC's activity calendar is packed. (I just looked it up, and "Kansas City's Big Picnic" at the Nelson is on July 21. Imagine if KC could show off Emanuel Cleaver Blvd as a beautiful, new, safe investment in our residents!!)

I organize a weekly family bike ride along the Trolley Track Trail, heading south to Waldo. I chose the TTT because it's completely safe and protected from traffic while young riders learn road safety and bike handling skills. So far, families from Olathe, Parkville, Liberty, and other KC metro areas are coming in for the ride. They often haven't visited the closer-in parts of KC in some time. If a safe connection existed between the TTT and GCT, I could begin showing off the other incredible zones of KCMO that have received a lot of investment and renewal in the last decade.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Schwartze
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