From:	Jessica Graves
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Please Oppose Ordinance #230092
Date:	Wednesday, February 1, 2023 7:09:05 AM

Dear City Council City Council,

I am a Kansas City resident living in the northland and working downtown. I started bike commuting to work as a way to improve my mental and physical health, and was encouraged to do so by the tremendous progress the city has been making in providing more extensive and safer cycling infrastructure. With the separated bike paths, like the ones on Gillham, Truman, and Grand I feel like I can safely travel through parts of the city that I wouldn't have been brave enough to attempt before.

While most drivers in KC are courteous and careful around cyclists, there are a small unfortunate subset that makes cycling in the city pretty scary - either drivers who are impaired, inattentive, or in many cases just aggressive or antagonistic (I've been yelled at many times to "get on the sidewalk, b**ch" or "get off the "f*****g road" despite always doing my best to follow the laws and be as safe as possible). I've had friends who were hit by drivers, and a colleague of mine lost a good friend in a cycling accident a couple years ago.

Because of all of this, I strongly feel that protected lanes, like on Truman, are important to making the city safer for everyone involved.

Truman road crucially opens up a much needed safe east to west path into the city. The protected lanes are beyond important to cyclist safety, and it seems like there is plenty of space on Truman for both a protected bike lane and outside parking like Grand now has.

Commuting by bike in KC has changed my life and is helping me improve my health, and I have all of the progress Kansas City has made with infrastructure to thank for that. I look forward to seeing what future improvements you can achieve going forward.

I am asking you to oppose Ordinance 230092. The Truman Road protected bike lanes deserve to be preserved and completed.

Regards,
Jessica Graves
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