



KANSAS CITY

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

May 5, 2025

RE: Ordinance 250382

Council Members,

On behalf of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, I urge you to **oppose Ordinance 250382** and prevent it from advancing out of committee.

Downtown residents support robust public transit, and we recognize the urgent need to address the funding gaps facing the KCATA and the IRIS program. However, this ordinance does not offer a sustainable or responsible solution. It merely shifts funds from critical transportation and safety initiatives, including bike share and Vision Zero.

Our neighborhood has been a vocal supporter of making downtown more accessible, safe, and multimodal. The proposal to defund bike share and Vision Zero projects undermines years of progress toward making Kansas City a city where people can safely and conveniently walk, bike, and ride transit. These programs are not just “nice to have”. They are life-saving, community-building investments that make downtown livable and vibrant.

We are also deeply concerned by the framing of this ordinance. It pits transit riders and bike/pedestrian safety advocates against one another. Public transit, Vision Zero, and bike share are all part of the same goal: building a transportation system that serves *everyone*. Attempting to fund one mode by cannibalizing others creates division among residents who should be working together toward shared goals of safety, equity, and mobility.

Kansas City deserves real solutions to its transit funding challenges, not short-term fixes that endanger lives and erode trust. We ask that the committee vote **no** on Ordinance 250382 and urge city leaders to pursue sustainable, long-term funding strategies that strengthen, not sacrifice, the comprehensive transportation system our city needs.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to a safer, more connected Kansas City.

Sincerely,

Peter Carnesciali
President, Downtown Neighborhood Association