From: Carl Schwendinger-Schreck
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance 250382
Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 12:43:25 PM

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Dear Public Testimony Public Testimony,

I'm writing to ask you to oppose Ordinance 250382.

As I understand this ordinance, it would make cuts to the Vision Zero and Bike Share programs in order to fully fund the bus system.

I do support Kansas City's bus system, have used the bus before and have been frustrated with the current state of the system, and certainly agree that it should be improved rather than worsened. However, functional public transit in Kansas City requires our city to have safe streets - when I (and others) use public transit in Kansas I typically walk or bike to the nearest stop. So, making cuts to pedestrian and bike safety programs in our city would directly negatively impact the bus system. Making cuts to the pedestrian and bike safety in order to fund the bus system would be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

We have two children and a single car, and so we depend on walking or biking to get many places. For instance, we often bike to school, or work, or to the grocery store. When biking our children to school we are required to cross 39th street in the Hyde Park neighborhood, which can be needlessly dangerous and I worry that we are putting our lives on the line just taking our kids to school. We then need to cross Armour, which lacks safe street crossings despite the fact that there are four schools along the road and that a child was injured crossing last year. I am hoping that Kansas City will improve safety along 39th and Armour before one of us get seriously injured or killed. Kansas City has made a number of good improvements to street safety in recent years, so I have been optimistic that this may happen. However, with the proposed cuts to the Vision Zero budget, I am beginning to worry that this momentum might slow or stop. I am hoping that Kansas City becomes a safe place to walk or bike before our children grow up and leave home.

There are many other example of areas in Kansas City that would benefit from improved pedestrian and bike safety. To name two, I am hoping that (1) the city improves street safety nearby schools (crosswalks, bike routes, etc) all across the city and that (2) the improves and connects it's growing bicycle networks to service the entire city. These projects are important in their own right, and also are a necessary component of a function public transit system. Therefore, I believe that funding Vision Zero and the Bike Share program are very important to the city and oppose Ordinance 250382.

Regards,
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