From: Anthony Cunningham
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance 250382
Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 11:50:11 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

Dear Public Testimony Public Testimony,

I oppose ordinance #250238 as written, and demand that KCMO City Council offer and pass a committee substitute that fully-funds our buses, Vision Zero, AND Bikeshare. The money is there from the Public Mass Transportation fund, I demand that you re-allocate money from road resurfacing and/or traffic signal projects using PMT money to restore funding for Vision Zero and our Bikeshare program.

Mayor Lucas' ordinance offers a false choice between fully-funding buses, making our streets safer to traverse, or funding alternative transportation programs. As a bus-dependent Kansas Citian, I reject this because I know that this will harm bus riders and active transportation users by keeping our streets dangerous, slashing access to a lifeline for bus riders, and by attempting to pit bus riders, workers, and other active transportation users against each other.

Vision Zero projects make our streets safer for everyone, but especially for those outside of a car. Bus riders are safer when we don't have to worry about navigating dangerous roads and trafficways just to catch the bus. According to KCUR, intersections that have adopted Vision Zero practices saw crashes decline by 95% since 2022. By defunding Vision Zero by $2.7 million, Mayor Lucas is choosing to continue to put bus riders in harm's way by forcing us to navigate our streets and intersections, which were the 5th-most dangerous of the 50 largest US cities over the past 5 years.

Bikeshare is a lifeline for bus riders. 60% of bikeshare trips start or end at a bus stop according to BikeWalkKC. We know the value of bikeshare because it's an affordable and efficient first-mile/last-mile solution that fills the gaps of our bus system and expands access to it for those who aren't within reasonable walking distance of a bus stop. This ordinance would force massive cuts to this program that, combined with previous cuts to bus service in KCMO and elsewhere, would cut us off from even more of our City and region.

This is a false choice being purported by Mayor Lucas – the money is there. The Public Mass Transportation Fund, funded through a ½-cent city-wide sales tax, has continued to be siphoned off for road resurfacing, streetlight replacement, and traffic signal maintenance – projects that benefit motorists, not bus riders. There is over $11 million in the budget for these projects. Bus riders demand that Mayor Lucas and City Council prioritize bus riders and active transportation users by re-allocating funding from these projects to fully-fund our buses, Vision Zero, AND bikeshare.

Mayor Lucas is taking a page out of the fascist's playbook. By defunding Vision Zero and Bikeshare to fully fund buses and IRIS, Mayor Lucas and the acting City Manager, Kimiko Gilmore, are pitting poor and working-class people against each other and making us fight for meager scraps. Fascist regimes, both new and old, have ruthlessly used this tactic over and

over – to terrorize and persecute folks of different religious backgrounds, folks with different skin tones, and, more recently, transgender and LGBTQIA+ folks and immigrants. All of this accomplishes the goal of obfuscating the real existential threat to our lives and democracy: the Billionaire Oligarchs who continue to buy our politicians, suck our public resources dry to pad their bottom lines, and kill our planet. Mayor Lucas is attempting to pit bus riders, active transportation users, IRIS drivers and transit workers against each other. We all are on the same side: we want our streets to be safer to traverse, we want alternative transportation options, and we want good jobs.

Regards,
Anthony Cunningham
2975 Main St
Kansas City, MO 64108