From:	Public Testimony
To:	Pugh, Kristy
Cc:	Sanders, Marilyn
Subject:	FW: AARP Opposition to Ordinance #210966
Date:	Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:15:47 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image003.png

Monica Sanders

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From: Eichelman, Craig <CEichelman@aarp.org>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Cc: Loar, Teresa <Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org>; Shields, Katheryn <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>
Subject: AARP Opposition to Ordinance #210966

Mayor Lucas and City Council:

AARP of Missouri is submitting the following letter to detail our opposition to ordinance #210966, which was recently introduced. It is our belief that this legislation directly conflicts with efforts to support the needs of the elderly and disabled. In particular:

- **This legislation removes infrastructure which helps these populations.** In 2019, the city council adopted ordinance #190067, which allows people to walk, ride scooters, and roll wheelchairs in a bike lane. By ripping out bike lanes, this legislation would not only harm people who bike in the 3rd District, but those who walk and roll using an assistive device as well.

- **The legislation reverses our progress to build a multimodal community.**

AARP was one of a coalition of community organizations, residents, and others who advocated for the adoption of the Complete Streets ordinance. This legislation was either co-sponsored and/or supported by every member still on the council today who was on the council in 2017. Exempting any one council district from this legislation puts at risk the lives of people who live, work, and play in the 3rd District and beyond for no good reason. It flies in the face of efforts to build a community for all ages and abilities.

- **The legislation may further exclude voices from engagement around infrastructure projects which are already missing.** In order for any project to even be considered, the decision is effectively left in the hands of the council members and neighborhood associations alone. The voices of those in assisted living facilities, people unable to attend neighborhood association meetings, renters, and others are already largely absent from these discussions and this legislation would further erode their ability to engage in something to make them safer.

In conclusion, AARP is strongly opposed to this legislation and ask you all to vote NO on ordinance #210966.

Thank you,

Craig S. Eichelman | State Director
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Empower People to Choose How They Live as They Age

AARP Missouri