From: Zack Brown
To: Bunch, Eric; Rea, Crispin; Bough, Andrea; MayorQ; Rogers, Wes; Berry, Rita; Public Testimony
Subject: Oppose Ordinance 250382
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Hello Councilmembers,

I'm asking you to oppose Ordinance 250382.

This ordinance is a stopgap measure that cannibalizes one part of our transportation system for another. Temporarily extending bus service while crippling bikeshare and permanently destroying progress on KC's Vision Zero efforts is extremely shortsighted. Those who don't live right next to a transit stop are either walking or biking home - these forms of transportation are the last mile, often the most dangerous part of a journey. Vision Zero projects have so far proven to reduce traffic fatalities for all road users.

My family are regular users of KC's bikeshare program. We use it to visit friends and shop from North Kansas City down to Waldo, from the West Bottoms to 18th & Vine. Its prevalence makes it not only good for planned trips, but for quickly getting somewhere in a pinch when it's a bit too far to walk. It's affordable and accessible, and since its inception I have witnessed a massive growth of people using it - every day I see at least a couple people riding past me on a RideKC bike. I attribute this growth not only to our great bikeshare program, but also to KC's Vision Zero efforts. I am fortunate to live in a neighborhood that has been surrounded by these efforts, from road diets to bike lanes to enhanced crosswalks. In the 9 years I've lived in my neighborhood and walked downtown every day (including every weekday to work and back), I can attest that these improvements have been positively transformative. It is much safer and more comfortable to walk and bike around the city and I see more and more people doing so.

All of this comes from a very small portion of the city's budget: the return on investment is huge, not only in lives saved but in a safer and more inviting atmosphere. With KC being on the world stage next year during the World Cup, we should not be cutting funding from initiatives that make the city easier and safer to navigate. This summer is likely the last chance we have to make improvements to our city to show it off to both domestic and international visitors. Do we really want to severely cut bikeshare right before a massive influx of tourists who expect such a basic amenity of a world-class city? Do we want to cancel lifesaving road improvements right before we are inundated with people who are used to a walkable city? If anything, we should be increasing funding to efforts that make KC appealing not only to guests but are sound investments in the city long-term, a win-win. We have been told for years that the World Cup will bring an untold amount of tourism revenue - please use it to make Kansas City a better place to live and don't move backward on our great progress. Please oppose Ordinance 250382.

Thank you,
Zack Brown
4th District resident