

SUNRISE MOVEMENT

May 3, 2024

Dear Kansas City council,

Sunrise Movement KC supports Ordinance #240423, which renews the popular and necessary RideKC Bike bike share service. For a number of reasons, Kansas City cannot afford to wane in its support for this service.

First, bike-share is used by many of our leaders who cannot afford a personal vehicle, or who cannot drive. It enables Kansas Citians to travel in an affordable, climate-friendly way, without having to purchase and maintain their own bike or electric bike. Bike share also complements the use of public transit by allowing riders to access transit stops that would otherwise be challenging to access on-foot, whether due to distance, or a poor pedestrian-level environment. Additionally, this service produces almost no wear-and-tear on our roads and mobility lanes, while crashes solely involving bikes are far safer, and cause almost no destruction, all of which provide the City greater long-term financial savings.

The service's electric-assist bikes, in particular, have been a game-changer for mobility by allowing persons of varying ability levels a friendly and less-intimidating way to navigate Kansas City's hilly terrain. Additionally, electric assist bikes make riding in mixed traffic less intimidating, by being able to more quickly accelerate from a stopped position.

Next, this service is a legitimate action under Strategy M-2 of our [Climate Resiliency and Protection Plan](#), which KCMO City Council adopted in 2022. **Bike share also helps address many of the City's goals as encoded in our [KC Spirit Playbook](#) master plan, including our goal of creating a more [Connected City](#), and providing more [Strong and Accessible Neighborhoods](#)** by providing a high-quality service that allows residents to access resources to meet their daily needs.

Lastly, **Kansas City's transportation system continues to be overwhelmingly designed and supported for individual motorists, to the detriment of many Kansas Citians.** Today, a vast majority of the City's resources are dedicated to building, maintaining, and operating infrastructure that serves the needs of those who can afford to drive themselves. This leaves minimal resources for those who traverse our City and the surrounding region by other means, including those who rely on public transit, walking, and biking. This resource misallocation, purposefully or not, results in a transportation system that is unsafe, and unreliable for anyone outside of a car. **We are encouraged that our leaders are becoming aware of how deadly our transportation system is, but that awareness needs to turn into action.** We are steadfast in our belief that this needs to include robust traffic-calming measures, such as expanding the networks of transit-only right-of-ways and mobility

lanes, as well as the expansion of transportation alternatives. **Passing this ordinance to renew our City's bike share program is one step on that road to a safer, cost-efficient, and climate-resilient transportation system.**

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Sunrise Movement KC

[Sunrise Movement KC](#) is a multi-racial, cross-class, anti-racist movement of young Kansas Citians, organizing to address the climate crisis of today and tomorrow. We build people power through direct action, local policies, mutual aid, deep democracy, and community relationships, in order to win a just transition for KC that ends our reliance on fossil fuels, abolishes the systems of racial capitalism, and centers the leadership and well-being of the most impacted communities.