From: Josh Boehm
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance #230092
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 11:05:16 AM

Dear City Council City Council,

I am asking you to oppose Ordinance 230092. This ordinance would be a major blow to Vision Zero and Climate Action efforts.

Roads like Truman are dangerous precisely because they are overly wide and encourage speeding. By removing travel lanes, adding full-time parking, and adding protected bicycle facilities, the roadway will be safer for people driving, walking, and biking.

The point of quick build projects is that they can be implemented cost effectively as a part of roadway maintenance efforts. For a modest incremental cost, resurfaced roadways can be restriped to calm traffic, resulting in safer streets and bicycle facilities that are accessible to more users. I also appreciate people calling for more maintenance for sidewalks -- the City Council should consider adding funds for sidewalks as they did with the roadway maintenance budget.

I am also appreciative of city staff's tremendous efforts on these bicycle facilities. They have been tasked with designing and doing community engagement for many more miles of facilities in one year than Kansas City built in the last two decades. Vision Zero and Climate Action require this pace and urgency, but staff also need additional resources to help with engagement and design. Please consider this when voting on next year's budget.

Truman has been the subject of several years of planning and engagement, including a MARC Planning Sustainable Places study. The most recent implementation project followed all of the engagement requirements set out by council.

While quick build projects are imperfect, they can be improved and adjusted to meet the needs of stakeholders and business owners. Your professional staff have been diligently working on these adjustments. Rather than tearing them out, make these adjustments and continue to evaluate their effectiveness.

Regards,
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