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**Subject:** Fw: Russell Dorn's testimony to the TIO COMMITTEE 11/4/2025  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:36:54 PM  
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**Sent:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:47 PM  
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**Subject:** Russell Dorn's testimony to the TIO COMMITTEE 11/4/2025

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# Testimony for the Kansas City Council, Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee, November 4, 2025, 9 am, City Hall 26th Floor Committee Room

My name is Russell Dorn. I am a 6th grader in Center School District in South Kansas City and live in the

6th Council District. I'm here to speak in **support** of Ordinance 250927 and to ask you to go further.

I live within walking distance of my elementary school, but I have never been allowed to walk to school by my parents or my school district because I would have to cross Holmes Road, a street that is on the [city's high injury network](#). Further, there are sections of the road without sidewalks or crosswalks at critical locations.

For the past few months, I have been looking at what it would take to make it safe for me and my friends to walk, bike, or wait for the bus. I have been talking to school staff, city planners, and other families.

One of my friends at Red Bridge Elementary is in a wheelchair, and their

family has to plan their route from the side of the school that has sidewalks. And if you think every kid arriving by car would help, I have been nearly hit by cars in the school pickup line at least twice.

The proposed bill banning right turns on red lights in school zones is a good start. But did you know that not all schools have school zones? Middle schools, with many students as young as 10, do not automatically get a school zone designation. Further, this does nothing for the rest of a student's route to school.

I would advocate for a more comprehensive look at transportation safety for kids to get to school. Sidewalks, bike lanes, public transit and traffic engineering strategies to slow cars along streets surrounding schools

could help. The principals I have talked with are particularly passionate that crossing guards during arrival and dismissal could make it safer for kids to get to school as well.

Making it safer for kids to walk or bike to school is good for our health, our communities and the environment.

Thank you for your work to make kids, and all of us, safer in our neighborhoods. Please vote YES for Ordinance 250927 and work to make it stronger.

Sent from my iPhone