From:	Elizabeth Harris
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Support Ordinance 220318
Date:	Monday, April 18, 2022 2:57:42 PM

Hello,

Please support Ordinance 220318 to build a network of protected bike lanes across the city. The projects have been adapted from existing area plans, and the City has an opportunity to make a massive difference in lots of people's lives very quickly.

I walk, bike, and/or ride the bus every day from the Manheim Park neighborhood, and I experience first-hand how streets built for cars endanger myself and my neighbors. Too-wide streets with confusing unofficial street parking, long blocks with no traffic control, and bike lanes so faded even that I can't even tell where they begin and end communicate to drivers that their speed and convenience is more important than my comfort or even my life. This weekend, a person was struck by a hit-and-run driver running a red light on Paseo just down the hill from my home.

Sadly, this is my experience in nearly every corner of our city.

Except on the Gillham bike lanes. I have seen children riding to and from school. Hospital staff walking near Children's Mercy where there is no sidewalk. Parents riding with kids in trailers. People using powerchairs and mobility scooters. Runners. A family riding with their child in an electric-bike+wheelchair system. People riding home with bags of groceries hanging off their handlebars. People riding to work, or for exercise, or just because it's fun and they feel safe.

When I cross Gillham on bike or on foot, the distance I have to cross between curbs is shorter, and the drivers seem less aggressive.

And when I drive on Gillham, I instinctively drive slower, and so do the drivers around me. We're more aware, and it feels less like we're racing to get to the next stop light. There is a bit of a learning curve for drivers, but their behavior has already improved greatly.

I live and work near the Gillham protected bike lanes, and I recognize what privilege that proximity affords me. But you have an opportunity to bring this kind of safety and joy and peace to neighborhoods across the city. You can make this happen for more Kansas Citians.

If you are serious about eliminating traffic deaths and addressing climate change and connecting our city, I ask you to pass Ordinance 220318.

Thank you,

Liz Harris
Manheim Park, 64110