

July 28, 2023

Mayor Quinton Lucas and
Members of the City Council
City Hall
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of BikeWalkKC and our members, I've written the following letter to express our organization's **support** for Resolution #230625. We believe this measure provides a good opportunity to explore better transit-oriented street configurations while also advancing proven safety measures.

Initially, we support Resolution #230625 because it provides a chance to explore options to make transit work more efficiently. Section 1 directs city staff to work with key partners to design alternatives along the streetcar route. This would produce non-binding recommendations for the City Council to consider and vote on at a later time. While transit-only facilities align with our own mission to create a culture of active living, we recognize that it will take time to inform the public of such changes and work to craft something which has consensus and the ability to move forward. This idea has the potential to drastically improve transit options, and it deserves an opportunity to be further explored.

Additionally, we support this resolution because it advances an approach to traffic safety which prioritizes our most vulnerable road users. Section 2 of the resolution notes the Council's support for design speeds at or below 30 miles per hour along the expanded streetcar route. We have known for years that speed kills and that speed is playing a greater factor in the crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities we see on Kansas City roads. A major factor in that alarming development has been the way we design our roads. Design speed differs from posted speed in that it more closely aligns with how fast a driver *can* go, not necessarily the speed they *should* go. By building a street for 30 miles per hour, we can limit crashes and the plethora of harm they cause under the status quo. Done correctly, we believe this could be a model for similar speed designs and adjustments across the city.

If we're serious about making transit work more efficiently for more people in Kansas City, we have to consider alternatives to the current order. Resolution #230625 enables us to do that, which is why BikeWalkKC asks the City Council to **adopt** this measure.

Respectfully,

Michael Kelley,
Policy Director
BikeWalkKC