

Craig, Sonda

From: Jason L <jdludwigson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 9:00 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Support for Protected Bike Lanes on 3rd & 4th Streets

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Dear La Crosse Common Council Members,

I'm writing to share my support for **Alternative 1**, the option that includes protected bike lanes on 3rd and 4th Streets.

Bike lanes help to keep bikers safer. While some bike lanes are only delineated with a painted line, some areas are including actual barriers between bike lanes, sidewalks, and the road. In a comparison between Europe and North America, cyclists in the USA have a higher risk of injury. Researchers think it may have something to do with bike lanes.

Bike lanes increase the amount of margin on roadways, which means that commuters have a larger visual space for maintaining safety in turning, avoiding fixed obstacles, and more. This space also means that bus stops have more room for picking up riders. Vehicle drivers will no longer need to move into oncoming traffic to go around bicyclists.

The addition of bike lanes helps to improve traffic flow because it gives bikers a place in the roadway. No longer do city bicyclists need to dodge cars or people and vice versa, but they can carry on at a steady speed. This improves traffic flow because everyone knows exactly where they belong.

Once bicycles have a designated space for commuting through the city, the sidewalk becomes safer for pedestrians and individuals with disabilities. Police can then also require bikers to use bike lanes rather than sidewalks.

Every person that feels safe enough to choose biking over driving helps to reduce air pollution and road congestion. Transportation is responsible for more than a quarter of greenhouse gasses. Just choosing to bike for short commutes can help decrease carbon output by 2,000 pounds every year.

The addition of bike lanes creates a feeling of safety for many people who would bike if they felt that it was a safe option. Not only does biking cut down on fuel use, but it also offers commuters the added benefit of exercise. For example, a two-mile bike ride can burn about 100 calories, and this type of cycling can decrease the chances of diabetes, depression, dementia, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and high blood pressure.

Please choose the option that reflects the future we want for La Crosse — a city built around connection, choice, and people.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important decision.

Sincerely,

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