

**Elsen, Nikki**

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**From:** cathy vm <cathyvanmaren@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2019 8:40 AM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members; Kabat, Tim  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on bike lane ban

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(Please excuse formatting issues I am having!)

Dear Council members

I am emailing to ask you to vote NO on the resolution to ban bicycle lanes on Gillette Street. Here are some of the reasons:

1. It's dangerous and a bad precedent to single out and deny safe infrastructure for bicycles on select city streets. As pointed out at the J&A hearing, our transportation systems and needs are changing. Banning bike lanes here ties the hands of planners to meet future needs.

2. Bicycles are vehicles. Bicycles are owned and used by tax paying citizens as vehicles to get to and from work, school, shopping, appointments, and other life needs. Bicycles are not toys. They are a preferred method of daily transportation for a growing number of citizens. Banning safe\* infrastructure along a direct access route is discriminatory. As Kevin Hundt pointed out at the J&A meeting, without safe infrastructure, bicyclists will tend to take the lane, their legal right, to avoid being sideswiped.

3. \*SAFE bicycle infrastructure is key. Many council members have expressed a strong desire to make sure city cyclists have SAFE places to cycle. Many cyclists ride on sidewalks to be physically separated from moving traffic. These cyclists are making their own \*protected bike lanes \* because none exist along their preferred routes. A protected bike lane along Gillette with a parking lane between the cyclists and moving motor vehicles would provide the safety council members say they really want for cyclists, cars, and trucks and would provide a safer crossing distance for pedestrians. Please require that our city planners quit wasting money on unsafe outdated painted lanes. Rather than banning bike lanes on Gillette you should require a protected bike lane there. (Read more at

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/03/a-new-bible-for-bike-lanes/554450/>

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4. We cannot allow the fears of a few to dictate transportation planning for the whole city. In any transition, adjustments will be required. Rather than ban safe bicycling infrastructure because a few businesses have relied on taxpayer funded and provided free parking for their clients, the city should work with them to find other options. Short term - occasional parking for funerals, for example, might be found on adjacent public spaces or neighborhood lots (actually, I HAVE ridden my bike to wakes and funerals). Long term, we \*must \* beef up our active transportation system including public transportation. We are crippling ourselves with costs of parking, valuable land lost to parking lots, money spent to maintain parking facilities, restricting access to businesses, etc. by not bringing funding and importance of better bikeways and public transportation into the

middle of our city's transportation equation.

5. Use this rejection of a bike lane ban as a wake up call. Get a PLAN. How *\*will\** people of all ages and abilities move around and participate fully in life without private cars? Currently, they can't. Bicycle infrastructure is incomplete and the 2012 bike plan, based on what we now know to be safe and useful infrastructure, badly needs updating. Our public transit system needs better and more frequent routes and full service around the clock. New city areas far to the south and north have few or no non-car year round options. Budgets must take into account the climate consequences of all transportation systems and prefer those with a low carbon footprint. But it's not just a global warming thing - it's a public health, budget, equity, environmental, safety thing, too.

I do hope you will reject this resolution but hear the concerns that are behind it and work to address them. Understand that bicycles are vehicles and that bicyclists of all ages and abilities need safe, modern infrastructure. Know that bicyclists are tax payers, pedestrians, bus riders, and car drivers. Pay attention to how all modes of transportation should work together to move people safely, affordably, and conveniently through the whole city and region. Look to the future by considering a comprehensive transportation plan that will equally serve all our citizens whether or not they walk, bike, ride the bus, own cars, or don't own cars. This is an opportunity to make our city better for everyone.

Cathy Van Maren  
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