

**From:** Justin Giebel <giebeljustin@yahoo.com>  
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**Subject:** Protected bike lanes for a better downtown

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Dear La Crosse Common Council members,

My name is Justin Giebel. I'm a graduate student, nurse, cyclist, and traveler. I moved to La Crosse from Madison, where protected bike lanes throughout the city improve traffic congestion, keep the public safer, and bring communities together.

As a graduate student studying nurse anesthesia and a former trauma ICU nurse, I've seen first hand the damage caused by bike vs car collisions. These collisions cause ripple effects through the communities beyond the physical damage caused to those involved. They can be avoided by improving traffic safety with protected bike lanes.

Being a cyclist, my bias is obvious, but here are some things I have observed since adopted bikes as my primary mode of transportation: bike travel allows you to slow down and see your community, cars inherently disconnect people from the world around them in their design, one car takes up the space of roughly 8 bikes despite generally only carry one a few people, and bikes are for everyone regardless of income.

I mentioned in my introduction that I'm a traveler. That is relevant because having been around the world, I've seen what happens when communities invest in bike transportation. I've been to both Houston and Amsterdam, two extremes. Amsterdam had a recognizable sense of community in it. Small shops flourished. The city was easy to navigate.

3rd and 4th street here in La Crosse are some of the most pedestrian heavy within the city. They're also some of the most highly trafficked. Implementing protected bike lanes allows other forms of transportation to access that area where bike racks are already installed, parking ramps for cars already exist, and small businesses count on people for their livelihood.

Considerations to be made include handicap parking access on intersecting streets and over ADA accessibility issues, but looking at cities like Madison present good models for solutions to those issues. La Crosse is a special place, and I'm happy to be here. Let's make it better for everyone.

Thank you,  
Justin Giebel, RN