

Craig, Sondra

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Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 9:21 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Protected bike lanes on 3rd and 4th

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Hello City Council,

My name is Patrick Kelly and I am a resident of La Crosse. I am writing to voice support for including protected bike lanes on 3rd and 4th streets downtown. The city has already done great work towards making La Crosse transportation more "complete". The transit station downtown has improved access by public transportation throughout the city, the bike lane on 2nd street has significantly improved the ability to move downtown with seamless access to the marsh trail. The improvements on 6th street will no doubt improve walkability and bikeability downtown. As a frequent cycling commuter (I work on French Island), the additional bike lane on Clinton Street has not only greatly improved my commute, but in all likelihood has saved me from injury. My previous trips across the bridge were often fraught with motorists far too close for comfort and too many close calls. On my commute, I frequently see that lane being used by a diversity of folks, including those using mobility assisting devices to get them from point A to point B. I would consider it a massive success.

There are so many reasons to improve 3rd and 4th with bike lanes. For one, it would obviously increase safety when commuting or recreating downtown. Both of those streets are not bike friendly, as traffic moves very quickly around areas with low visibility (the curves near the Bodega and Bennet's especially). This is not only of benefit to the cyclists themselves, but an incredible amount of research has demonstrated that "complete streets", more pedestrian friendly areas, and slower traffic speeds increase the economic viability of downtown businesses ([DE0719.pdf](#)). There are so many examples of cities prioritizing walkers and bikers leading to incredible improvements in livability, from towns as small as Lancaster, CA ([How Making Cities More Pedestrian-Friendly Can Revitalize Local Economies — EMORY ECONOMICS REVIEW](#)) to massive cities like Paris ([How Cities Can Use Paris as a Model for Implementing Safer Street Infrastructure | Urban Institute](#)). I think it would not only do well for the businesses in town, but also for increasing the resident population of our downtown area. In addition, people want to visit places that are easy to navigate by bike.

La Crosse is the perfect community to be the bastion of varied transportation options for the midwest. We have the right population for it, and the opportunity now to improve on the work already being implemented. We should absolutely not let this opportunity go to waste.

Regards,
Patrick Kelly