From: avian Brunkhorst
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance 250382
Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 1:46:36 PM

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Dear Public Testimony Public Testimony,

I'm writing to ask you to oppose Ordinance 250382. Mayor Lucas has introduced Ordinance 250382 as an inadequate short-term patch to the bus and IRIS program funding crisis. At best, it's a temporary stop-gap measure that will further undermine KCMO's overall transportation system and the safety of people who walk, drive, bike, and use the bus. And, it will cast further doubt on KCMO's ability to meet the transportation needs of visitors for the World Cup. The legislation will:

Force steep cuts to the city's bike share program: This would significantly shrink the size of the bike share program in KCMO. Bike share is a lifeline for people getting to and from bus stops, especially as bus service continues to be cut. 60% of all bike share trips begin or end at a bus stop.
Cut over $2.7 million from the city's Vision Zero efforts: Coupled with cuts during the budget process, this would amount to a total 60% cut in Vision Zero funding that was just expanded by the City Council this spring.
Undermine FIFA World Cup efforts: We need a strong transportation system for residents and international visitors. Defunding bike share, transit, and transportation safety projects is NOT the approach we need in this moment.

The cuts are being proposed as a means of providing critical funding to the KCATA and the IRIS program. BikeWalkKC supports more investments in public transportation (including advocating for funding during the budget process and supporting efforts to establish regional transit funding), but we've also been clear that such increases can't come at the expense of making our streets more dangerous and undermining the larger transportation system.

What City Hall fails to understand is that our transportation system isn't made up of silos; it is an interwoven network that requires support and sufficient funding especially for people who are unable to drive.

Regards,
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