From: Sara Copeland
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance #230092
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 9:08:49 AM

Dear City Council City Council,

I'm writing to ask you to oppose Ordinance 230092. The Truman Road protected bike lanes deserve to be preserved and completed.

In my former role as Community Development Director for the City of North Kansas City, I'm familiar with public outcry following changes to a street configuration. It takes time for travelers to become familiar with new things. NKC's experience was that making adjustments in response to business concerns allowed us to improve the overall project, despite early calls for the Armour Road bike lanes to be removed. For Truman Road, Public Works has identified ways to address concerns and needs time to do the work. Making a decision to entirely remove the protected bike lanes before the work can be completed is an impulsive response that does not address the underlying issue, which is a street that is one of the most dangerous in the city. Please give your staff and contractor an opportunity to adjust the project as they have proposed.

Protected bike lanes are a great tool for improving safety for all of the people who use a roadway. A safe Truman Road is important to everyone in the city. This is a project that has received public input and is part of an adopted plan. Reversing course now is not only wasteful of public dollars, but sends a message to KC residents like me that public projects aren't established through careful planning, but are subject to the whims of the moment.

I'm not a regular biker, but I have a teenager who rides his bike all over the city. I'd like him to make it home safely, and for all of us to have safer streets. Please vote against this ordinance.

Regards,
Sara Copeland
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