From:	Kiley Sutter
To:	Public Testimony
Subject:	Oppose 210966
Date:	Friday, December 10, 2021 1:03:46 PM

Honorable KC Councilmembers:

As a resident of KC, I am writing to share my opposition to Ordinance 210966 which would remove completed projects in KC in the third district and stipulate infrastructure updates that could postpone safer transportation infrastructure indefinitely.

The ordinance coming on the heels of President Biden's visit to KC to spotlight the street car and free bus fare initiative among other things is quite ironic. KC has identified the need for better infrastructure to offset the constant threat of climate change, the cost of maintaining thousands of miles of street surface, and making transportation more equitable and safe for those in the city who travel by foot or bike. Ordinance 210966 undermines those identified needs for KC.

To uninstall projects that are already built and in place would cost taxpayers twice…on the same project which is another reason I oppose this ordinance. From reading the proposed ordinance, the key shortcomings that the ordinance is trying to remedy appears to be poor execution in communication with stakeholders. The ordinance proposes removing bike lanes, looping in the stake holders, then maybe rebuilding the bike lanes should the stake holders approve it. So that could mean a third time spending money on the same project once again. This seems absurd to me. Removing bike lanes does not solve the communication challenge the ordinance is trying to address.

I am in agreement with Councilwoman Robinsons desire to have stake holders in the community be looped in and communicated with concerning new projects in their district, even city wide. This is a shortcoming most Kansas Citians can identify. But Kansas Citians also want money to spent properly and responsibly. This potential bill on building, removing, rebuilding on the same project would be a great point of communication to disperse among constituents.

The section 2 requirement on fixing all sidewalks within a 1 mile radius of the proposed project sounds fantastic and I would also be in agreement that the sidewalks in KC are in dire straights. As a matter of fact, I voted in favor of the GO KC tax increase in 2017 to increase funds for city to address the dire straits of the sidewalks. But holding bike lanes hostage to side walks make them seem like their diametrically opposed in their functions which is safer travel for pedestrians. Perhaps if this section of the ordinance is going to be considered it should be amended to make it legal for bikes to use sidewalks as bike lanes. Bike lanes are used by pedestrians across the city so they are a win/win for being a safer place to walk and bike for many
residents. Bike lanes don't add or detract from the communication challenge that brought us here to 210966. They do, however, align with making the city a safer place to get around for folks with cars, without cars, kids, those with physical disabilities, and the elderly. Please do not pass Ordinance 210966. Please do fix the communication shortcomings that bring us to these hearings in the first place.

Sincerely,
Kiley Sutter
KC Resident