



DENVER STREETS PARTNERSHIP

May 11, 2020

Eulois Cleckley
Executive Director
Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Eulois,

We are writing on behalf of the Denver Streets Partnership in support of the proposed E. Dartmouth Avenue bike lane and the other projects proposed as a part of the annual paving program, including E. Jewell Avenue and E. Virginia Avenue. The DSP is a coalition of community organizations advocating for people-friendly streets in Denver. On people-friendly streets, walking, rolling, biking, and transit are the first choices of transportation for all people. Streets for people are living, public spaces that connect us to jobs, schools, services and each other, and are designed to foster health, happiness, and opportunity for all.

The proposed E. Dartmouth Avenue bike lane provides a critical connection for people biking in Denver. Whether it's families biking to school at Slavens Elementary, neighbors getting some fresh air and exercise, or commuters passing through from the High Line Canal to future facilities outlined in the Denver Moves Bicycles plan, this corridor provides traffic calming and dedicated space for people of all ages and abilities to ride.

For the DSP and our supporters, it's not just about one individual bike lane. It's about creating a connected network of safe places for people moving around our city, whatever mode they choose. We support projects, like those proposed for E. Dartmouth Avenue, E. Jewell Avenue, and E. Virginia Avenue, that improve street safety and can be installed quickly and easily during the annual paving program. Quick implementation followed by evaluation of street design changes helps inform future changes to the same street or other streets, thereby ensuring intended outcomes are achieved. This type of iterative planning and implementation is a smart and efficient way for Denver to manage its street space.

We believe that community input about how a facility can be best implemented can be valuable, but that it is counterproductive to allow people who own homes to have veto power over public projects that increase safety, further citywide goals, and have already been adopted as a part of citywide plan. Residents don't own the street in front of their homes, the City does. It is the City's duty to determine the highest and best use of that right of way for all residents of Denver, not

just homeowners. The DSP supports the data driven decision making process performed by the Denver Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to make that determination on this project and others.

This bike lane, and the others proposed across the city, is consistent with commitments made and plans adopted by Denver leaders in recent years. In the Denver Vision Zero Action Plan and the Denver Mobility Action Plan, respectively, Denver is committed to reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero and reducing the percentage of people driving single occupancy vehicles from 73 percent to 50 percent by 2030. These projects are also consistent with the values and plans, thoroughly vetted by the public, in Denverite, Blueprint Denver, and Denver Moves Bicycles.

Lastly, people across Denver support new bicycle infrastructure, even if at the expense of on-street parking. A [recent poll](#) shows that 80 percent of Denverites support the City's plan to add 125 miles of bike lanes by 2023 and 57 percent agree that Denver should increase the number of dedicated bicycle lanes that separate bicycle and car traffic even if it means less on-street parking in front of their home or business.

We urge you to stand firm in your commitments to making Denver's streets safer and more accommodating of all modes of transportation, by supporting the proposed bike lane projects that are a part of the annual paving program.

Sincerely,

Jill Locantore
Executive Director, Denver Streets Partnership

Danny Katz
Chair, Denver Streets Partnership Steering Committee
Executive Director, CoPIRG

Molly McKinley
Vice Chair, Denver Streets Partnership Steering Committee
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Director of Programs, Mile High Connects

Cc: Mayor Michael B. Hancock
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Council President Jolon Clark, District 7
Council Member Amanda Sandoval, District 1
Council Member Kevin Flynn, District 2
Council Member Jamie Torres, District 3
Council Member Kendra Black, District 4
Council Member Amanda Sawyer, District 5
Council Member Paul Kashmann, District 6
Council Member Chris Herndon, District 8
Council Member Candi CdeBaca, District 9
Council Member Chris Hinds, District 10
Council Member Stacie Gilmore, District 11
Council Member Debbie Ortega, At- Large
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