

Honorable Kansas State Transportation Committee Members:

My name is Barry Carroll; I reside at 1134 N. Coolidge Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203. I am the founding member of the '*Bike/Walk Alliance-Wichita*.' We are a volunteer group that advocates for safer places to walk and ride bicycles.

I am speaking in support of the proposed Livable Streets Resolution. As you well know, livable streets - sometimes referred to as complete streets - are roadways designed to allow safe and convenient travel by all users.

Here in Wichita, there are several organizations such as the Oz Bike Club, the Prairie Travelers, the Coasters, GreenWay Alliance and the Bike Cave who are working together for improvements to the outdoors and built environment. Our organizations consists of walkers, runners and cyclists who all enjoy the outdoors and would like to have safe places to walk, run and ride. We collaborate with local neighborhood associations who share our aspirations.

Our local City and County elected officials are supportive of additional bike/ped paths and have recently installed bike lanes on several streets throughout Wichita. We are working collaboratively with our elected officials in an effort to create safer places to walk, run and bike.

Currently, there is a 'Master Bicycle Planning Initiative' underway. There are been several public meetings to date seeking input from our citizens. The meetings have been well attended. The final version of the plan will be forwarded to the City Council for adoption in the fall of 2012.

Locally, our transit system has installed bike racks on their buses and the use has exceeded all expectations! Bike racks are being installed in neighborhoods and by businesses in recognition of increased number of cyclists in our community.

The Bike/Walk Alliance is also collaborating with local, regional and state bicycle advocacy groups. We are learning that other communities are excited about walking, running and cycling as well.

It's time to recognize this growing need to adapt our environment to accommodate citizens who want to be outside. With the incidence of obesity in our communities, it makes good economical sense to get children and adults outside. It is well known that young professionals locate to communities that have good walking/ped paths and walkable streets. We need to keep our young people in our local communities.

In summary, passage of this resolution will be a great gesture to state and local planning departments and is a step in the right direction for community development!