

January 27, 2012

RE: Senate Resolution 1805

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I strongly urge you to support **State Resolution No. 1805**. My name is Stephanie Kollmann and I am a resident of the Rosedale neighborhood in Kansas City, Kansas. In our neighborhoods, connectivity is critical to overall neighborhood health and sustainability. Livable streets – sometimes referred to as complete streets – are roadways designed to allow for safe and convenient travel by all users, including motor vehicles, pedestrians (including those with disabilities), transit vehicles and bicyclists both along and across the corridor.

I am a bicycle commuter, which makes me a minority in this and many other cities. Like others who pursue unpopular or misunderstood paths, I have experienced disrespect, contempt and, disturbingly enough, even hatred and danger because I choose to ride a bicycle in this state. I choose to do so in spite of the infrastructural and social deterrents because bicycling contributes to my own health, as well as to the economic, environmental and public health of my community.

By making roads more accessible for all modes of transportation, livable streets provide safe and convenient travel for persons of all ages and abilities, including children and the elderly. Livable streets encourage active living, promote good health, provide economic benefits, make neighborhoods healthier and provide safer streets.

Since safe and livable bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems are important to the economy and economic development of Kansas, I would strongly encourage the Kansas Senate to declare support for livable streets policies and urge their adoption at the local, metropolitan, regional, state and national levels. Doing so will be a monumental step in making it safe and acceptable for bicyclists such as myself to continue making the healthy choice for ourselves and for our cities.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kollmann