

May 9, 2022

Dear Mayor Jones,

At the most recent **Community Mobility Committee** meeting (Wednesday, April 27), members brought up concerns they have discussed in subcommittee meetings and with other City of St. Louis residents. We wish to raise these important issues related to safety on our streets directly to you.

We want to encourage your administration to pursue a comprehensive approach to planning for zero deaths and serious injuries on our streets. While we are grateful for the hard work happening on individual corridors and within individual wards, our committee believes that a comprehensive approach is necessary to make our streets safe, particularly for the most vulnerable road users. Piecemeal traffic calming and infrastructure efforts risk increasing the existing gaps, such as our score of [40 on the Equity Indicator Pedestrian Injuries](#).

As the first round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding is assigned for spending via [Board Bill 184](#), members of our committee have noticed that there are funds for street resurfacing of major streets that are exceptional dangerous environments to people walking, using public transportation, riding a bike, and driving, including Grand Avenue, Kingshighway, Jefferson, Union, and Goodfellow. These large, fast arterial roads are critical thoroughfares for people moving on all modes of transportation.

That is why we ask you to work with your team at the Streets Department and the Board of Public Service (BPS) to consider the timing of repaving these segments. Most of these segments do not have plans in place that prioritize the safety of people walking, biking, or taking transit, as well as those who are driving. Surface repaving alone will not resolve the danger. With these once-in-a-lifetime funds, the time is right to make our streets safer for transportation users of all ages and abilities. We hope that with your direction, Streets and BPS can coordinate with others, including alders, to seek funding to allow for improved facilities for everyone using these streets *before* the investment in repaving takes place. There are many safety improvements, such as curb extensions, high visibility crosswalks, traffic signals, and lane diets that reconfigure the road, that would improve safety for people driving, walking, and biking. This is an incredible opportunity: every repaving project is an opportunity to create a safer St. Louis!

At the same time, the upcoming funding opportunity through the US Department of Transportation's [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) initiative is an opportunity to tackle comprehensive planning. This discretionary program will fund grants that could be used for a comprehensive safety action plan. We are aware that the staff are currently learning more about this opportunity, and we ask you to pursue funding for comprehensive planning as soon as possible.

We thank you for your leadership and for your administrations' willingness to engage with us, particularly through our liaison Grace Kyung. The residents our committee hears from are hungry for traffic calming and appreciate these improvements across the city. We would be happy to meet with your team to discuss at any time.

Thank you,

*Voting Members of the Community Mobility Committee:*

Aamna Anwer

Denis Beganovic (1226 Olive St.)

Charles Bryson (3XX North 4th St.)

Liz Kramer, Chair (35XX Humphrey)

Taylor March, Vice Chair (46XX Minnesota)

Kaleena Menke (11XX S Boyle Ave)

Kevin McKinney

Pam Robtoy (7XXX Michigan Ave)

Tiffanie Stanfield