

## **Remarks at the signing of Board Bill 120**

*Wednesday, March 1, 2023*

My name is Liz Kramer, and I currently serve as the co-chair of the Community Mobility Committee. I'm joined today by my co-chair Christie Holland. We are so grateful to Mayor Jones, President Green, the Board of Aldermen, and the whole team gathered here for their work to bring this historic investment to fruition.

This investment is not just a nice-to-have for St. Louis. Our sidewalks and streets are deadly, as we have witnessed in the last few weeks with the horrific deaths of Corntrail McKinley, Anthony Robinson, Richard Boyd, and Bryanna Dentman-Johnson at Forest Park Parkway and Grand, the maiming of of Janae Edmondson downtown, in addition to the 20 people killed while walking or biking in 2022. For years, we have lived with streets that exacerbate the recklessness of drivers, and no one in our city should fear for their lives as they go from place to place.

In the very near future, we will look back and see this moment as a sea change, when we begin looking at transportation comprehensively — looking across the city, beyond ward boundaries, and across different modes. We will be working proactively, guided by our completed and adopted mobility plan that will shape a long-term strategy that allows not just for good design and building, but good maintenance and education. This historic investment is our down payment: we have so much work to do to change not just our built environment but our culture, and we must be consistent as we rebuild and reimagine what traveling around St. Louis can be like. This change is long term, but this funding gives us a chance to make needed improvements now. Because of this historic funding, we will quickly and efficiently see improvements on the ground, including traffic calming, sidewalks, greenways, and ADA accessibility. I can't wait!

How this work happens is critical: these projects set the tone for a culture shift that builds towards a vision of a St. Louis that is a great place to get around: on foot, on bike, on scooters, in a bus, or in a car. The Community Mobility Committee is looking forward to working in partnership with the Mayor's Office and all the departments represented here to ensure that these projects directly engage residents, respond to historic, racist disinvestment in parts of our city, and impact the lives of people across St. Louis in positive ways.

Again, thank you Mayor Jones for your commitment to the urgency of addressing traffic violence and the experience of getting around our city. We can't wait to do this work.