

Subject: Urgent Call for Collaborative Action: Addressing Traffic Violence for a Safer St. Louis

November 28, 2023

Dear City of St. Louis Officials,

We hope this letter finds you well, as we, as the Community Mobility Committee advocates for safe walking, biking, rolling, transit use, and other non-automobile forms of travel, write to you with a plea that echoes the concerns of our community members who have endured the devastating impact of traffic violence. Our city is at a crossroads, and the urgency for collaborative action is palpable. We implore you to hear our concerns, needs, and desires for a safer and more equitable transportation system.

**Losses, Urgency, and Immediate Action:**

Our community is grappling with the profound losses caused by traffic violence, and the time for action is now. Resources like ARPA funds, the Rams settlement, and grants from a variety of sources, including the arts, could be a lifeline to implement immediate solutions, such as pedestrian islands and quick-build measures. Seeing infrastructure on the streets would be a game changer, altering mindsets and encouraging safer driving practices. We must address the urgent need for safer streets now. The costs of inaction are measured not only in lives lost but in the toll on individuals, families, and the city's well-being.

**Public Awareness and Communication:**

Simultaneously, our community demands improved communication and transparency regarding ongoing transportation projects and the ongoing impact of traffic violence on our roads. Establishing an easily accessible online platform detailing project statuses is not just a request but a necessity for informed citizenry and an understanding of what's coming.

**Collaboration, Coordination, and Comprehensive Approach:**

To maximize the impact of funds and foster a transparent approach, collaboration and coordination must be at the forefront of transportation decisions. Partnerships across agencies that leverage a variety of funding for traffic calming can pave the way for creative solutions. This collaborative effort must ensure that decision-making is not just efficient but also considers the equitable needs of all our residents, including having decision-makers across agencies acknowledge, prioritize, and focus on the needs of people who get around in ways other than driving.

**Community Involvement, Education, and Quick Build Solutions:**

Moving beyond planning and into implementation is imperative. Quality quick-build solutions that improve safety should be prioritized for prompt action and as a measurement for further investment. Equally crucial is better community involvement and education to manage expectations and empower the community to recommend and implement quick-build solutions tailored to their unique needs.

**Designing for the most vulnerable among us:**

For years, our streets have been designed for flow and speed of automobile traffic. This has left behind people using assistive devices like wheelchairs or motorized scooters, including those who are aging or living with disabilities, as well as youth who may move more slowly. We want to see acknowledgement, prioritization, and investment in safe and accessible infrastructure for people with different mobility needs.

In conclusion, our plea is simple but urgent: the time for collaborative action is now. The costs of current traffic violence on lives, livelihoods, and the city's resources cannot be overstated. We implore the City of St. Louis to embark on a collaborative journey, emphasizing equity, transparency, and swift implementation.

We eagerly anticipate a response that reflects a commitment to collaborative decision-making, considering the needs of all residents and prioritizing the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,  
The voting members of the Community Mobility Committee

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*Bobbie Fernandes Brantley*  
*Christie Holland, co-chair*  
*Denis Beganovic*  
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