



Sustainability Action Network

Local Solutions for Transition to a Sustainable Economy

Mayor Michael Dever
Lawrence City Hall
Lawrence KS 66044

2 August 2013

Thank you, Mayor Dever, for the Commission's July 23rd consideration of funding a Bicycle Network Engineering Division and a significant level of dedicated funding for bicycle infrastructure.

In the interest of an accurate reflection of Commissioner Schumm's and Commissioner Riordan's comments about that funding, we are requesting that the following complete and accurate transcription record replace the abridged version of their comments as stated in the draft minutes of that meeting.

**Lawrence City Commission meeting
excerpt from Commissioner discussion of budget
23 July 2013**

**Agenda Item #4 –
Conduct public hearing on the 2014 Budget**

Commissioner Schumm said he does believe the Commission should look at, in the next budget year not this budget year that they're working on right now, but should take a close look at considering some additional funds for bicycling around town. He thinks they've tried to do a number of things, but maybe they should do more. He would be in favor of looking at that in terms of allocating additional amounts of money for improving the bicycle network opportunities. He said he didn't think it's something they could put on tonight because they're talking about a million bucks, and it's just not going to happen. But it could happen over the next couple years, and that's what he'd be interested in pushing for to see the Commission work towards. They used the word "plan" as just talk that means nothing, but to me it would mean something to try and come up with some kind of financial numbers that we could start to implement some of this stuff.

Mayor Dever agreed "absolutely".

Commissioner Riordan said he also thought the Commission ought to do that, but can't do that tonight. And he appreciated Michael's and the other commentators' comments tonight, because he thinks this is very important. He bikes probably 60 miles a week, and his most dangerous time is getting to where he's actually going to do the biking. The Commission can't do this now tonight because they've set a maximum rate for the mil levy, and cannot increase that unless they take it away from somebody else, and he didn't think that would be fair at this point. But he agreed with Commissioner Schumm that what would be fair is to look at this for next year. Because he thinks they could do a lot more for bicyclists. He would like to encourage people who ride to work. Most people are doing it for exercise, but he'd like to also create a city where the Commission encourages people to ride to work and other places, and not just for exercise.

sincerely,

Michael Almon