



Sustainability Action Network

Local Solutions for Transition to a Sustainable Economy

Bryan Culver, Chair
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission
Lawrence City Hall
6 East 6th St.
Lawrence KS 66044

20 September 2013

re: PDP-13-00299; Preliminary Development Plan, 9 Del Lofts

Mr. Culver & Commissioners:

The Bicycle and Alternative Transportation Committee of the Sustainability Action Network supports the inclusion of a 10-foot wide bicycle track in front of the 9 Del Lofts apartment building.

Sustainability Action has been advocating for bicycle transportation since we formed nearly six years ago. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, transportation accounts for 67% of U.S. petroleum consumption, and 60% of that is by light vehicles (GAO-07-283 Peak Oil Production, p. 10). Most travel takes place in private cars, and 79% of those trips are single occupant (USDOT National Household Travel Survey 2009). So our greatest potential for conserving energy and reducing CO2 emissions is by getting out of our cars, something drivers are reticent to do unless bicycle and pedestrian facilities are safe and convenient.

Currently, the Burroughs Creek Trail from 23rd St. north to 11th Street at Hobbs Park has great potential as a major bicycle commuter trunkline to downtown from the south east neighborhoods. But at present, there is no safe and convenient connection from the 11th Street terminus to downtown. One of the principal provisions of the Burroughs Creek Corridor Plan is that “the trail continue to the north to a desired trail head at Hobbs Park, and in the future allow the trail to continue farther to the north”. The intent of the Planning Committee was for the trail to connect with downtown and points beyond.

At this time there is an ideal opportunity for a public-private partnership to realize this long anticipated plan. As indicated in the 9 Del Lofts Development plan, developer, Tony Krsnich, is proposing to build a 10-foot wide bicycle track in front of his project at 900 Delaware St. He is having the Westar power lines buried along there to make room. Sustainability Action recommends approval of the Development Plan with the bicycle track included.

Sincerely,

Michael Almon