

July 30, 2014

To:
Lawrence City Commission
Douglas County Commission

CC:
Mike Press- Eudora City Manager
Chris Lowe-Baldwin City Administrator
Lynley Sanford – Lecompton City Clerk
Bicycle Advisory Committee Members
Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission
Lawrence Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Advisory Board
Live Well Lawrence Healthy Built Environment Work Group
Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition



Dear Local Officials,

Members of the Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) send this letter to ask you to support the creation of a taskforce to recommend implementation priorities for the multimodal studies. We would like to recommend you also have the taskforce explore options for creating a Coordinated Bicycle & Pedestrian Advocacy/Advisory Committee to improve coordination of bicycle and pedestrian issues throughout Douglas County in the future.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) would like to better coordinate bicycle and pedestrian issues to improve parity of non-motorized transport modes with motorized ones. We would like to coordinate related existing committees and stakeholder groups around bicycle and pedestrian issues. BAC members have visited with local committees and work groups interested in bicycle & pedestrian issues to investigate their interest in a coordinated meeting to discuss bicycle & pedestrian issues and in improving and strengthening coordination on local efforts. On June 23, 2014 the BAC hosted a bicycle & pedestrian coordinating issues forum to discuss the support for a combined committee. Besides the BAC members present the following groups were also represented at the forum: Lawrence Traffic Safety Commission, Lawrence Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Advisory Board, Live Well Lawrence Healthy Built Environment Work Group, and the Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition. One particular common concern that was addressed was Safety, although there are others including but not limited to: education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, funding infrastructure, and continued coordination and prioritization of issues.

There is local community support for coordinating bicycle and pedestrian issues and those desires for coordination have been documented during recent planning processes including the development of the Transportation 2040 - Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Countywide Bikeway System Plan, and the Douglas County Community Health Plan. If you have any questions about this request for support or about any of the documents noted in this letter please contact me at wirely.lisa@gmail.com or Erin Paden at earthpaden@hotmail.com.

Thank you,



Lisa Hallberg
BAC Chairperson