

We Need Your Help Now to Make KC Friendlier for Bicycles!

What is Bike KC?

BikeKC is a proposal to create a network of on-street bike lanes and routes around Kansas City and reserve a little more right-of-way in future developments for pedestrian and biking facilities. The idea is to integrate bicycles into the mix of Kansas City's transportation choices. Details about the plan can be found at www.bikekc.org.

Bicycle riders, groups, clubs, and shops around the area strongly support BikeKC and have worked hard to get it passed. BikeKC has real grass-roots support.

Why Should Kansas Citizens Support BikeKC?

- **Bicycling is a fun, fast, safe, healthy, and inexpensive** form of transportation and recreation. We should promote its use in the metro area.
- The availability of transportation alternatives will **make Kansas City a more thriving, modern, liveable city**.
- New developments will be planned from the beginning to allow for safe bicycle and pedestrian access. This sort of planning costs a little in the short run but makes development more attractive and ultimately, more valuable to those who live there. **People like to live where they can bike and walk.**
- Studies show that on-street bike paths and routes, such as those proposed in BikeKC, **increase bicycle safety, reduce friction between bicycles and autos, and are effective in increasing bicycle use.**
- Bicycling, even just a few miles a week to work, school, the store or the park, is **a healthy and eco-friendly alternative**. Example: People who switched from auto to bicycle commuting lowered their overall mortality rate by 40% (that's a lot!). BikeKC will make utility bicycling (commuting, shopping, etc.), more practical for more people.
- Millions of federal dollars are available to **smooth streets, replace grates, and repair curbs and gutters** on bike routes. Let's get BikeKC in place use our fair share of those dollars before they're gone.

BikeKC Seems So Sensible. Why Wasn't It Passed Long Ago?

BikeKC has been tabled in committee since September 2001. Some developers have opposed the plan because they will have to reserve a little more of the real estate in new developments for wider roadways to include space for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Others have opposed on-street bicycling facilities on safety grounds and argued, instead, that KC should concentrate only on off-street bicycle paths. Fortunately, there is ample data to show that **bicycling is very safe**, and in fact national data shows that on-street bicycling is 2-3 times safer than bicycling on off-street bicycle paths. **Adding bicycle routes and lanes to our streets will make on-street bicycling safer yet.**

Furthermore, on-street bicycle facilities are the only way to make bicycling a realistic transportation alternative—streets already go everywhere and paths never will. Off-street bike paths are a great recreation alternative and BikeKC's on-street facilities will be a nice complement to the many planned bicycle paths in the MetroGreen plan for the KC area. To make Kansas City a really friendly place for bicycles, **we need the right mix of on-street facilities and off-street paths.**

What Can I Do to Support Bike KC?

Thanks to a grass-roots effort and at the request of Mayor Barnes, Councilman Charles Eddy, and others on the City Council, on August 7th, 2002, BikeKC will again come for consideration before the Kansas City Planning and Zoning Commission.

I urge Kansas City road users to let the Kansas City Council members know that you support BikeKC. **Grass-roots effort has been essential in getting BikeKC as far as it has, and more is needed to push it over the top.** Three ways you can help:

1. Attend: Please consider attending the crucial committee hearing on BikeKC. **The meeting is August 7th, 2002, at 1:30PM, in the Council Chambers, 26th Floor of City Hall, 414 East 12th Street.** Many citizens coming in person to the meeting will show community support for BikeKC in a concrete way. There may be an organized ride to the meeting (check www.bikekc.org).

2. Contact: Please be polite and persuasive when you **write the City Council, 24th Floor, 414 E. 12th St., KCMO 64106, call (816) 513-1625, or email. Just a brief email or postcard helps a lot!**

Council members on the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee (who most need to hear from you on this issue) are Ed Ford, Troy Nash, Bonnie Sue Cooper, and Mary Williams-Neal.

3. Inform: Please talk to your neighbors and friends about BikeKC. Write letters to newspapers big and small. Call in to talk radio shows. Email relevant online forums. **Let your voice be heard!**

City Council Email Addresses

[note that aides receive email for some council members—thus the email name is not always the same as the council member name]

Mayor: Kay Barnes
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1st District (at large): Ed Ford
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5th District: Terry Riley
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6th District (at large): Alvin Brooks
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6th District: Charles A. Eddy
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Who Wrote This?

Dr. Brent Hugh, classical pianist and professor of music at Missouri Western State College, has bicycled about 2000 miles on Kansas City-area roads in the past year. He can be reached at bhugh@mWSC.edu or (816) 356-1740.