

Dear Councilmember Bostrom,

I am writing to ask your support for the bike lane projects on Cleveland, Lexington, and Front Ave.

I am a father of three and a year-round bicyclist. We are a one car family, and having safe places to bicycle is important not only for me but also for my wife and children who need me.

I commute daily to teach at my school (Crossroads) on Front Avenue. While the stretch of Front Avenue being considered does not come directly in front of Crossroads, this would still contribute to a Safe Route to School for employees and children coming and going from our school from west of Dale. Our school currently does not have bike racks because the principal doesn't want to encourage students to ride what she considers to be unsafe streets. Please vote to put a bike lane on Front Avenue west of Dale (and east of Dale later) to provide on safe route to our school.

I also used to be a student at St. Catherine University. At that time I wanted to ride my bicycle to class but I did not due to the fear of safety issues. I have since gained confidence to ride in traffic but many, many people who go to that school have not. I strongly encourage these bike lanes to be built. There are numerous accommodations for lost parking that have been suggested to make up for what businesses will miss.

Thirdly I hope you will vote to install bike lanes on Lexington to contribute to our growing bicycle network and the livability of St. Paul. We do not have to be a car-only city, even in winter. Many other cold weather cities around the world have made the investment for multi-modal transportation, and it is paying off.

Thank you,
Eric Saathoff
xxx Wells St