



Dear City Council,

I am writing to confirm my organization's public support of the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan. Sprockets is excited to support this plan and the City's vision of a connected system of bike routes that ensures that adults and children of all experience levels, skill levels, or preferences can comfortably travel by bicycle.

Sprockets is Saint Paul's out-of-school-time intermediary that serves 50 organizations which in turn serve over 20,000 youth. Our mission is to increase access to high-quality afterschool programming in Saint Paul. We utilize citywide coordination, promote a common data system, and advocate for the use of quality standards.

Many of the youth and families who access our partner organizations and programs do not have access to vehicles for their transportation needs, and rely instead on ride-sharing, transit, and walking. Lack of safe and comfortable ways to bicycle and walk prevent some youth often from accessing quality programs which would benefit them and their communities. We know that 38% of young people aren't regularly engaged in afterschool, and this percentage is higher for low-income youth and youth of color. Sprockets is working to increase youth access to programs by developing the capacity of partner organizations to teach and encourage youth safe bicycle and pedestrian habits.

Safer and better-connected bicycle routes and bicycle facilities throughout the city of Saint Paul would enable and encourage transit-dependent youth and families to access places of work and education. Investment in low-income neighborhoods with transit-dependent populations increases transportation equity throughout Saint Paul and connects young people with many learning opportunities otherwise unavailable to them. Afterschool learning opportunities narrow the achievement and opportunity gap, and equitable access to these opportunities is important.

For these reasons, Sprockets supports the adoption of the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan as an addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Please accept this letter of support from Sprockets, and feel free to contact me at eyenga.bokamba@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 612-554-3807 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Eyenga Bokamba
Executive Director, Sprockets