

June 3, 2021

The City of Milwaukee Common Council  
200 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Common Council Members,

We at the Wisconsin Bike Fed support and recommend the passage of the *Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan*. The passage of this plan is essential to make Milwaukee's streets safer for our most vulnerable users, particularly MPS students and families. This year our Safe Routes to School program in Milwaukee, led by The Wisconsin Bike Fed and DPW - Multimodal team, won the National Center for Safe Routes to School *Vision Zero for Youth Innovation Award* for our work during the pandemic and inclusion of student voices in infrastructure projects. We have the building blocks of world class Safe Routes programming but need further support from the Common Council and Mayor's office to effectuate the necessary changes to make our public right of way truly safe. Our collective work around Safe Routes to School has the power to transform both the health of our neighborhoods and student outcomes.

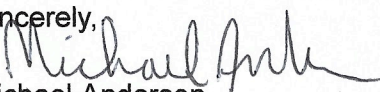
You may recall that in early 2020 student essays from Lincoln Avenue School were submitted by Alderman Perez along with the recommendations from the Reckless Driving Taskforce. The education work that led to those student essays is one such recommendation from the Taskforce. The passage of this strategic plan will demonstrate to your constituents that you are taking their recommendations to heart. We are proud that the DPW is again partnering with the Bike Fed and building upon this model of student engagement in 2021 at Milwaukee's Westside Academy. Your support of this strategic plan will help us drive our important work forward.

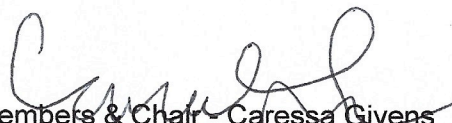
We are particularly enthused about Page 34 of the Strategic Plan regarding Chapter 102 of the City Ordinance. In addition to the passage of the Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan, we highly recommend that you address this prohibition of bicycles on playgrounds. The Wisconsin Bike Fed and our partners in MPS are moving forward on several Traffic Garden projects on Milwaukee's northside, with hopeful expansion of this effort to every playground in the city. Our goal is to create safe places for families and young people to practice so that they can develop the skills to make riding a bike a viable and safe mode of transportation. We need the Common Council to act as our champion to repeal this discriminatory city ordinance and ensure that every neighborhood in Milwaukee has access to safe places to learn to ride a bicycle.

We also highly recommend that additional money in the city budget be directed toward Safe Routes programs such as mini-grants as spelled out on page 38 of the strategic plan. Such mini-grants would go a long way in helping schools establish programs such as Walking School Bus efforts, which address both community safety and student attendance.

Thank you for your support of the *Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan*. We are excited to continue building upon our award winning work with The City of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Anderson  
Program Manager  
Wisconsin Bike Fed  
Safe Routes to School in MPS

  
Members & Chair - Caressa Givens  
City of Milwaukee Bike and Pedestrian Taskforce

