



TO: Milwaukee Common Council
DATE: October 20th, 2020
RE: City of Milwaukee's 2021 Budget - Complete Streets and DPW

In October of 2018, the Common Council unanimously approved a complete streets policy, and in the 2020 budget the Council created a multimodal transportation capital program intended to enhance bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. We applaud the Council's previous actions and ask you to continue investing in these vital infrastructure projects. **Specifically, we ask you to increase your investment in multimodal transportation infrastructure to \$1,560,000.**

Investing in the built environment of a community has many benefits: it can facilitate economic development, reduce collisions and injuries, and improve health. It can also be done in a way that helps break down inequities and address social determinants of health. If the pandemic showed us one positive it was people getting outside and utilizing trails and parks like never before. It showed us if you build it they will ride and walk it.

Investing in the way a neighborhood designs its sidewalks, streets, bike lanes, parks, and buildings can benefit the local economy. When people can easily walk, bike, and shop in their neighborhood, it benefits small businesses in the neighborhood and the local economy.

Building streets with sidewalks and bike lanes can also lead to fewer collisions and injuries between cars and people walking or biking too. When streets are designed and built to share with sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks and curb ramps, there are fewer car crashes— drivers, and people walking and riding bicycles are all safer.

Complete streets also help create a culture of health— a community where the healthy choice to be active every day is made available to all residents. Families are encouraged to walk, bike and be more active, therefore helping to prevent heart disease, diabetes and strokes. More people walking and biking can also lead to reduced traffic and improved air quality.

Please build on the work that has been done and invest at least \$1,560,000 in the 2021 Budget.

We realize there will be tough decisions this budget season, many line items will be cut or reduced. To ensure we fully fund this public health and safety need we recommend reducing Enforcement funding and invest in long term infrastructure projects that reduce the need for armed responses to enforcement of traffic laws and instead invest in ways to peacefully reduce dangers using the built environment.

Please feel free to contact with questions or follow up.

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