



CITY OF MILWAUKEE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE

841 N Broadway #505, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 286-2489

April 12, 2022

Mayor Johnson
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 201
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Alder Dimitrijevic
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Alder Kovac
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Johnson, Alder Dimitrijevic, and Alder Kovac:

It's time to take an important action step from The City of Milwaukee Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan, which the Common Council passed in June 2021. Pages 31, 34, and 35 of this resolution recommends the "Near Term Action" of "revising City ordinances to allow bicycle operation on school grounds." Currently, bicycling is only allowed as part of school-time activities. The proposed revision will address issues of accessibility for all ages and abilities and enable our playgrounds to be used outside of school hours by creating opportunities for families to safely recreate.

The time for this revision is urgent as MPS embarks on an ambitious effort to paint and stripe "traffic gardens" on all its playgrounds by September 2023. Traffic Gardens are skills courses that build safe street habits and provide safe places to play and learn to ride a bike. In order to build a Child-Friendly Milwaukee, we need your support in honoring young people's right to play.

The Wisconsin Bike Fed has further resources to answer questions you may have about our proposed revision as well as a guide published by The Safe Routes Partnership regarding the movement to decriminalize road laws such as Milwaukee Ordinance 102-7 which may lead to racialized enforcement. Such ordinances are known to disproportionately affect communities of color and create unnecessary and potentially harmful interactions between law enforcement and residents. The Wisconsin Bike Fed regularly works with MPD Community Liaison Officers through our Safe Routes to School programs in MPS. These officers regularly go on community walks with us and share the sentiment that more opportunity for recreation positively impacts community safety.

To accomplish this, we are looking for a Common Council Member to sponsor this change in the city ordinance. The Legislative Reference Bureau has already reviewed and made edits to our proposed amendment. Please see the attached document from LRB for sponsorship information. Mike Amsden's leadership in DPW has been helpful in moving this important step forward and honoring the city's commitments as laid out in the Safe Routes to School strategic plan.

Respectfully,
City of Milwaukee Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force and Wisconsin Bike Fed

Caressa Givens, City of Milwaukee Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force - Chair

Montavius Jones, City of Milwaukee Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force - Vice Chair

Cinthia Tellez, City of Milwaukee Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force - Policy and Project Workgroup Lead

Michael Anderson, Safe Routes to School MPS - Wisconsin Bike Fed