

My name is Jeff Crockett and I have been an Ann Arbor resident for over 50 years. I have lived in the Old Fourth Ward area for over 40 years and love that I can walk to university events, restaurants, Zingermans, the Peoples Food Coop and many shops. It is one of the few 15 minute neighborhoods in Ann Arbor. I also regularly walk my dog. However, with increased bike and scooter activity in the last few years, inconsiderate scooter operators and bikers have on a number of occasions zoomed by me and my dog without warning. Offenders leave the scene too quickly to take a picture to identify them. I can't report the offender without identification. As a result, enforcement is almost non-existent. But, I am not the only pedestrian who feels this way.

Concerned, I started a Nextdoor conversation that resulted in 230 Comments over a period of several weeks. Several days ago, I followed with another Nextdoor post that resulted in 66 comments in just 24 hours. Clearly, there is significant community concern about public safety that involves the interactions among drivers, bikers, scooter operators and pedestrians. I learned that each of these stakeholder groups have different perspectives and need to be heard and respected.

To learn about existing laws, I went to the Police Department and asked about the city ordinances that covered the operation of bicycles and scooters. The police officer on duty did not know. That was a surprise. Later, I learned that Article XII of the City Code, recently revised on July 24, does address the operation of bikes and scooters. Unfortunately few people know about Article XII. Even as bike and scooter traffic have increased downtown, there has been no public outreach or promotion of Article XII that I am aware of in the press or on social media..

Unfortunately, there is another, very serious problem that emerged from the NextDoor discussion and that is right-of-way among drivers, cyclists and scooter operators. The bike lanes, while helpful to bikers has caused confusion among drivers. For example, at the intersection of Williams and Fourth, there are 2 way bike lanes on the north side of the street. A right turn crosses these bike lanes. At times, especially during periods of traffic congestion, bikers can speed in bike lanes much faster than traffic. Distracted by traffic, drivers may not see a speeding biker in time. Please consider the following five suggestions to improve public safety.

1. Hold public engagement forums and/or online surveys to determine what the public is experiencing.
2. Develop and publish right-of-way guidelines for drivers, cyclist, and scooter operators.
3. Engage the police department in suggestions 1 and 2 in developing an enforcement plan.
4. Engage the University of Michigan in educating students on using bikes and scooters on city streets and sidewalks.
5. Enlist the help of the \$1,000,000 Safe Streets consultant.

Thanks for your consideration, Jeff Crockett