

## Cespedes, Christopher

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**From:** City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 9:03 AM  
**To:** Cespedes, Christopher  
**Subject:** FW: State Street bike lanes and trash

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**From:** Victoria Green <xxxxxxxxx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 6:17 PM  
**To:** City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <xxxxxxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Police <xxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Engineering <xxxxxxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Akmon, Dharma <xxxxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <xxxxxxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; hello@xxxxxxxx.org  
**Subject:** Re: State Street bike lanes and trash

Hi, folks. I finally got an answer to this question today:

*2. How can the City support bikers attempting to use the lanes when they are obstructed? No matter what, people will occasionally make a mistake with their bins. What do you recommend bikers who want to use the bike lane do? Do you have a problem with our clearing the lane by moving bins into the driveway apron? If you have another recommendation, I'd love to know it! (The one thing I will not do is call the non-emergency number. Absent some change, it's just proven to be too ineffective for bike lane obstructions to be worth the time.)*

The officer who responded to the blocked bike lane on State Street today and the people threatening \*me\* with arrest clarified the law. Citizens have the right to remove obstructions from the bike lane (unless they are things like official city barriers barring bike lane use).

However, given experiences like today's it's clear that the City cannot rely on cyclists to do this and that the safe thing for us to do is just to use the regular lane.

On Mon, Sep 9, 2024 at 6:05 PM Victoria Green <xxxxxxx@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi, folks. I'm seeing a problem in the City that I'm hoping a coalition of resources may be able to address.

The State Street bike lanes south of Packard are a definite improvement (thank you!) -- but I'm finding that the northbound lane between Granger and Packard is too frequently blocked by trash bins.

- It is my understanding that bins are never permitted in the bike lane.
- Trash bins persist along this street long past the [36-hour permitted window](#). The northbound bike lane is typically blocked 3 days out of 7 (Sunday through Tuesday) -- or would be if bikers weren't moving the cans.
- Today I saw probably 6-7 cans fully blocking the bike lane in 3 blocks and a couple more partially blocking it. This is typical for Mondays/Tuesdays.

So two questions:

1. What can the City do to reduce bike lane obstructions on State Street?

2. How can the City support bikers attempting to use the lanes when they are obstructed? No matter what, people will occasionally make a mistake with their bins. What do you recommend bikers who want to use the bike lane do? Do you have a problem with our clearing the lane by moving bins into the driveway apron? If you have another recommendation, I'd love to know it! (The one thing I will not do is call the non-emergency number. Absent some change, it's just proven to be too ineffective for bike lane obstructions to be worth the time.)

I apologize for the wide range of people included in the send line here -- I really don't know where the solution lies: in policy, in enforcement, in education and awareness. I know the problem but defer to experts on the solution. My perception is that this is a problem on other streets as well.

I will also acknowledge that there are other serious problems facing cyclists on this street and that you may have to prioritize. Motorcycles in the bikelane have become a daily occurrence, and the southbound lane lacks bollards in one spot -- seemingly on purpose to allow um charter busses and state police cars to park there. But today I'm seeking help with using the bike lane during trash obstructions.

Thanks for your time.  
Victoria Green