

Cespedes, Christopher

From: Cespedes, Christopher
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Cespedes, Christopher
Subject: FW: The bridge at East Medical Center Drive

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Eric XXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXX@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2023 3:52 PM
To: XXXXXX @umich.edu; XXXXXX [@umich.edu](mailto:XXXXXX@umich.edu); XXXXXX [@a2gov.org](mailto:XXXXXX@a2gov.org)
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Subject: The bridge at East Medical Center Drive

Hello,

I would like to express my concern about the proposed design under consideration for East Medical Center Drive's bridge. I believe it will lead to less safety and accessibility, as well as more traffic.

The contributing factors, as I see it, are:

- The slip lanes proposed, plus the visual hiding of pedestrians from drivers, will lead to more pedestrian injuries and fatalities.
- Adding lanes and reducing sidewalk tells users of the bridge "This is for cars, everyone else deal with it" -- the sort of dated approach to road infrastructure that has been partly responsible for the postwar explosion of car-dependency.
- This corridor hosts parts of the B2B trail system, and thus sees a lot of walking and bicycling uses. As the popularity of B2B continues to grow, we will be funneling people of all ages and abilities into this dangerous roadway and junction.
- This car-centric proposal is not consistent with City and University goals for carbon neutrality, as well as our values as a community, and certainly won't help any State-level goals in the future.

Deploying inversion thinking, do we want future urban planning students using this bridge as a positive case study of forward-thinking design and best practices for a planetary climate under threat, or a negative one that didn't consider the urgent need for weaning ourselves off carbon-generating modes? We only get the opportunity to update this bridge once per generation, so whatever we do with it now could be in effect until 2060 or later, when the planet will be a much warmer place and non-car modes will by necessity be the norm.

Let's follow modern best practices for traffic calming, road dieting, pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and climate-aware design, so that Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, and the State of Michigan are leaders and examples for others who share our goals and have the drive to make a positive impact for the planet, for communities, and for future generations.

Thank you,
Eric XXXXXX