

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission
From: Jean Leverich
Subject: Thank you for Healthy Streets, Road Diets, Protected Bike Lanes and Sidewalks
Date: Saturday, September 4, 2021

Dear Mayor Taylor, City Council Members, Transportation Commissioners, and Office of Sustainability staff members:

I just wanted to thank you for your efforts to work toward A2Zero. I am impressed, particularly, by the Healthy Streets Initiative, the road diet on S Main, the 2 way lanes on First and Ashley, and the protected bike lanes. I also want to thank the city for your work on filling sidewalk gaps so that everyone may comfortably navigate our neighborhoods.

I have had the pleasure of walking, biking and driving downtown recently, though I mostly walk or bike, and I think the new configurations calm traffic effectively. I feel significantly safer biking and crossing the street. I have lived in Ann Arbor for over 30 years, the first 6 with just a bike and access to the bus, and I appreciate these changes.

Because many of the changes occurred right before UM student move-in, I noticed many complaints on social media both about traffic and changes to traffic patterns. I am confident that these changes do not contribute to more traffic; and I am cautiously optimistic that some of these changes may encourage people to park in a parking structure on the outskirts of town and then walk downtown, leaving on street parking for people with disabilities.

Again thank you so much for your wise stewardship of our community. I know that change is difficult for many people, so I want to be sure to thank you for your efforts.

Thanks again,
Jean Leverich