



1536 Wynkoop St
Denver, CO 80202
bikedenver.org

April 28, 2016

Dear Councilman Herndon:

On behalf of the members of BikeDenver, we are writing to request that City Council identify funding for bicycling improvements as a top priority in the 2017 budget.

The Public Works Denver Moves Plan Performance Audit dated July 2015 performed by the Office of the Auditor, Audit Services Division, City and County of Denver (enclosed) identified serious deficiencies in the funding sources required to adequately address the City's own goal of establishing an easy to use transportation network for bicycling.

The Denver Moves Audit estimates the cost of full implementation of the Plan at \$119 million. At the current rate of implementation and funding, fulfillment of Denver Moves Bicycles could take as long as 30-50 years. In practical terms, this means a whole generation of underserved youth will have grown up without the benefits of a sustainable and economic means to travel in and around the City. A whole generation will continue to find it difficult to grasp the first rung on the economic ladder of prosperity. BikeDenver believes this is an untenable situation that must be remedied.

The current funding source for the Department of Public Works is insufficient to meet the goals of Denver Moves Bicycles. In addition, Denver lags far behind comparable cities in their efforts to fund multi-modal solutions. Several cities that Denver considers rivals for the creative class that it so eagerly covets are steadfastly funding their bicycle implementation plans. For instance, Austin, Texas is currently pushing its city council for a \$150 million bicycle funding initiative. The City of Seattle, Washington recently adopted a six-year capital improvement program that includes \$35.5 million for bicycle implementation. By contrast, Denver funded its bicycle program in 2015-2016 at a meager one-time commitment of \$2.2 million.

City Council has repeatedly identified Denver Moves Bicycles as one of the City's foremost priorities for establishing a multi-modal network. BikeDenver, in the spirit of our continued cooperation to assist the City in achieving its priorities, believes it is imperative to the success of Denver Moves Bicycles that City Council identifies this issue as a budget priority by requesting, at a minimum, that the Department of Public Works funds bicycling improvements with dedicated funds as an Annual Program of the Department.



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Equally critical to the success of Denver Moves Bicycles is finding innovative new funding sources and leveraging those funding streams to make the kind of bicycle improvements that create a bicycle network with high quality and easy to use facilities. One such innovative funding example is in Philadelphia, where the Mayor is considering taxing soda pop distributors to pay for increased bicycle infrastructure. Without creative solutions like this, the City's plans to provide a safe network and increase active transportation will inch along year by year, and Denver will fail to meet its goals.

Investing in bicycle infrastructure is good for the community, good for business, and vital for a growing city. BikeDenver invites you and your fellow City Councilmembers to proudly support the goals and aspirations found in Denver Moves Bicycles with the funding commensurate to the Plan's timely implementation. As the budget process progresses, BikeDenver looks forward to working in continuing cooperation with you and City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Mark Chapman
President, BikeDenver Board

Encl.

cc: Jose Cornejo