

March 15, 2016

Director Leif A. Dormsjo  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M St. SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003

**Re: Eastern Downtown Protected Bike Lane Study**

Dear Director Dormsjo:

We, the undersigned businesses, write to express support for the proposed Eastern Downtown Protected Bike Lane project. The addition of a protected bike lane to this downtown corridor will improve the quality of life for residents, will bring economic benefits to the surrounding businesses, and will be an important step in meeting Mayor Bowser's commitment to Vision Zero, a campaign to end all traffic fatalities by 2024.

The installation of protected bike lanes and the accompanying road redesign have been shown to calm traffic, reduce crashes and make streets safer for both pedestrians and cyclists.<sup>1</sup> All of the streets currently being considered under the Eastern Downtown Protected Bike Lane study would benefit from such traffic calming measures.

We support this project because it will benefit our businesses. In other cities, businesses located on streets where protected bike lanes were installed saw increased retail sales, even greater than average growth in the rest of the city<sup>2</sup> If area businesses see an increase in sales after the installation of the protected bike lanes, this will likely attract other businesses to locate in the area, further improving the employment, retail, and service options for area residents.

We support this project because the District's children deserve safe routes to school. Calming the traffic around schools, through the addition of the protected bicycle lanes, will make it safer for children walking to school. It will also provide the opportunity for children to travel to school by bicycle, on paths that are separated from cars that limit conflicts with traffic and opening car doors. This project will complement the DC Public Schools 2nd grade bike education program by providing a safe place for students to use and practice these skills. This is a tremendous opportunity to encourage our kids to be physically active and set them on the path to a lifetime of good health and well being.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/protected-bike-lane-statistics>  
<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/blog/entry/it-turns-out-that-protected-bike-lanes-are-fantastic-for-walking-safety-too>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/protected-bike-lane-statistics>  
<http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2015/03/the-complete-business-case-for-converting-street-parking-into-bike-lanes/387595/>

We support the project because it will create more transportation options for all residents. Economically disadvantaged residents will benefit from the development of a safe and complete bicycling infrastructure system.<sup>3</sup> Automobiles are very expensive to own and operate, especially for residents with limited financial resources. Public transportation is not always accessible or reliable. Access to safe, dependable and affordable transportation is a critical element to improving their quality of life.

DC is a growing city. To accommodate the city's evolving transportation needs, it is essential that DDOT expand and improve the city's multimodal travel options. Keeping the District dependent on the automobile will limit potential growth and make the city a less attractive place to work, visit or live. Already, ten percent of trips in Shaw happen by bicycle. This number will be much higher when residents have a safe, protected space to ride.

We strongly encourage DDOT to move forward with the planning and installation of an uninterrupted, completely protected bike lane in the eastern downtown area.

Sincerely,

Andy Shallal	Busboys and Poets	1025 5th St NW
Kerry Gallagher	Calabash Tea	1847 7th St NW
Leah Fantle	Chrome	1924 8th St NW
Shayne Zaborowski	Frank and Oak	1924 8th St NW
Abdul Souada	Pizza D'oro	717 T St NW
Mercedes Gray	Lettie Gooch Boutique	921 8th St NW
Leah Cheston	Right Proper Brewing Company	624 T St NW
Louie Hamkims	Rito Loco	606 Florida Ave NW
Doris Strong	Steven Alan	1924 8th Street NW
Mairead Murphy	Uprising Muffins	1817 7th St NW
Wanda Hendersen	Wanda's on 7th	1851 7th St NW

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/protected-bike-lane-statistics>