

To:

Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor, mayor@CoMo.gov

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City of Columbia, Missouri

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Subject: Forum Boulevard Improvement Project

Mayor Buffaloe, City Council Members, and City Staff,

I attended the Interested Parties Meeting for the Forum Boulevard Improvement Project at Forum Boulevard Christian Church and 11/30/2023. I'm submitting comments on the project on behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission.

The Commission endorses the following elements of the project:

- Addition of sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of Forum Boulevard along the entire corridor of the project from Stadium Boulevard to Green Meadows Road
- An 8-foot pedway on the west side of the road and 6-foot pedway on the east side of the road
- New roundabout at the intersection of Forum Boulevard and Woodrail Avenue
- New roundabout at the intersection of Forum Boulevard and Katy Lane
- Ramps at roundabouts, where there are no dedicated bike lanes, so cyclists have the option of riding onto or off the sidewalk to negotiate roundabouts
- Striped crosswalks at roundabouts with pedestrian refuge islands in the middle of streets
- Extension of the existing pedestrian path south of the Forum Nature Area to allow safe merging to the new pedway

The Commission submits the following proposed changes for consideration:

- Consider widening the pedway on the east side of the road from 6 to 8 feet from Woodrail Drive north to the entrance to MAC / Wilson's Fitness Center and other businesses. Cyclists can achieve high speeds descending this hill. A wider pedway allows cyclists more leeway controlling their bicycles as they descend the hill.
- Signage or pavement markings approaching and exiting roundabouts giving direction to bicyclists that they have the option of riding on sidewalks to negotiate roundabouts

In discussions with Mr. Stone during the meeting, we discussed the City's schedule for sweeping bike lanes to keep them free of debris which is hazardous to cyclists using the bike lanes and can cause flat tires. He informed me that the ideal schedule is for bike lanes to be swept at 10-week intervals; however, the City is not necessarily adhering to this schedule. In order for people to adopt bike lanes, a regular maintenance schedule needs to be adhered to.

He also informed me the City has a fleet of four sweepers for bike lanes which are 9 years old and should ideally be replaced every 4 years. The estimated cost of new sweepers would be \$375,000 for a diesel sweeper; \$850,000 for an electric sweeper; and \$600,000 for a sweeper that could be used for a protected bike lane (where there is a barrier between the bicycle and car lanes).

Respectfully,

Carol Elliott

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Vice Chair, Columbia Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission