

To: Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor
From: City of Columbia Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission
Date: June 1, 2023
Subject: **Improve I-70, I-70/US 63 Interchange Design-Build Project**

Dear Mayor Buffaloe,

The I-70/63 interchange has been identified by Columbia's Vision Zero team as the most pedestrian unfriendly and dangerous intersection in the City. In previous I-70 intersection design-built projects, bike/pedestrian facilities were included via 8-foot sidewalks. The design-build team for this intersection needs to include bike/pedestrian facilities for the following reasons:

1. The City has notified MoDOT of its Complete Streets Policy.
2. A pedestrian connector at this intersection is on the City's Sidewalk Master Plan.
3. Adding bicycle and pedestrian connectivity at all four legs/directions of the I-70/US 63 interchange is on the CATSO Unfunded Needs List.
4. It is important that MoDOT stress the importance to the consultants at the RFQ stage to implement MoDOT Engineering Policy Guide Category 642.2, Consideration of Pedestrian Facilities, in its design:
 - There are existing gaps.
 - There are pedestrian traffic generators at each of the four quadrants.
 - There is footpath evidence of existing pedestrian traffic.
 - Pedestrian access is limited by a man-made barrier.
5. All four corners of the intersection need pedestrian connections.
 - The northeast quadrant, identified as a Justice40 area, has low-income housing developments and retail businesses, including restaurants.
 - The southeast quadrant has hotels, grocery stores, medical offices, and neighborhoods.
 - A major retail complex is in the southwest quadrant, containing restaurants, major "box" stores, and more.
 - Additional low-income housing is located in the northwest quadrant, which is also in the Justice40 tract.

The City's Bike/Ped Commission considers the I-70/63 intersection its number one priority for inclusion of safe bike/ped facilities connecting all four quadrants of the intersection. We urge you to ensure that the MoDOT selection criteria for short-listing the design-build team for the current project include this critical need.

Sincerely,



ELKE BOYD, CHAIR
CITY OF COLUMBIA BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION

C: City Council, Members
De'Carlton Seewood, City Manager
Richard Stone, Engineering & Operations Manager
Allison Anderson, Engineering Manager
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Ed Hassinger, PE, MoDOT Deputy Director/Chief Engineer
Kirsten Munck, MoDOT Area Engineer
Zackary Osman, MoDOT Transportation Project Manager