May 10, 2019

Dear Bellevue City Councilmembers,

Cascade Bicycle Club (Cascade), on behalf of our 45,000 community members, thanks the City of Bellevue for rapidly implementing the 108th Ave demonstration bikeway in 2018.

We support the Transportation Commission recommendation that the City retain the bikeway and make refinements to enhance user experience. Their recommendations to ensure consistent physical protection and separation from motor vehicle traffic follows national best practices for bikeway design and will be essential to improving safety and comfort on the 108th Ave connection for people of all ages and abilities. The learnings from the pilot mean **Bellevue is well-positioned to rapidly implement more of the Bellevue Bike Network.**

Building on the success of 108th for safety, efficiency, and livability is necessary to realize the 2009 vision laid out in the Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan. As you are well aware, by 2014, Bellevue planned for protected and separated routes (one N-S, one E-W) in downtown; by 2019, the city's goal was for two routes N-S and two E-W city-wide, and work remains to meet this goal.

The next step for Bellevue is to build an east-west connection in 2019.

And the time is now. With East Link light rail and the Eastside Rail Corridor opening in Bellevue by 2023, first last mile walking and biking connections, ready on day one, are essential to leveraging these regional investments by serving people who want to connect between the downtown core, neighborhoods, and business districts.

Thank you for your leadership on the 108th Ave bikeway. We look forward to working with you to advance other projects and initiatives to make the Bellevue community safer, more connected, and more accessible for people who bike.

Sincerely,

Claire Martini
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