Leveraging Opportunities for Complete Streets
Safe Routes to School National Partnership – January 31 2019
BikeWalkKC Mission:
To redefine our streets as places for people to build a culture of active living.
Our Work
Advocacy and Public Policy
Our Work

Congregation and Community Engagement
Our Work
Education and Encouragement
Leveraging Opportunity
How a proposed General Obligation bond turned into complete overhaul of Kansas City's active transportation policy.
Many of the city's adopted and draft area plans place significant emphasis on increasing walkability. What is your idea of a more walkable KCMO? Why do you feel it is important to have a more walkable KCMO, council district?

I firmly believe that walkable neighborhoods are a must for all areas of Kansas City. They improve overall health, neighborhood connectivity and reduce crime because people have the opportunity to know each other and are outside seeing what is happening in their neighborhoods. The most expedient way to increase walkability is to keep sidewalks in good repair and to put sidewalks in those areas where they are lacking.

Do you believe that active transportation should be part of a larger strategy to increase mobility in Kansas City? Why or why not?

Yes. We need as many alternative forms of transportation as possible, including bicycle and walking. It improves individual health and reduces the stress on roads and the resulting infrastructure cost of vehicular transportation.

Educate elected officials

We got to know elected officials BEFORE they were elected
Stay alert for opportunities

In early 2016 we learned of potential infrastructure bond
Mobilize the community

BikeWalkKC convened stakeholders and residents to develop sidewalk policy guidance
Update your plans

In December of 2016 City Auditor reported that existing bike plan was insufficient; new plan announced.
Pull yourself up to the table

We lobbied to include complete streets and sidewalks in GO Bond
Set the expectation

Council passed a resolution calling for sidewalks policy overhaul and a complete streets ordinance
Change your policy

City removed property owner financial responsibility for sidewalks
City adopted a Complete Streets ordinance in December 2017.
In spring of 2018 voters renewed capital improvement tax with new complete streets set-aside

Use the momentum for more funding
Follow up

We have to continue advocating for annual appropriations and that sidewalk policy continues to evolve
Thank you!

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