



JAMES CAPPLEMAN
ALDERMAN, 46TH WARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES AND RULES

EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY

HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

HUMAN RELATIONS AND HEALTH

LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

ZONING, LANDMARKS, AND BUILDING STANDARDS

Laura Flores
Chair, City of Chicago Plan Commission
CPC@cityofchicago.org

March 3, 2023

Re: Support for Clark Street Crossroads Corridor Study

I am writing to support the Clark Street Crossroads corridor study that will provide a common, community-driven framework for future land use, development, mobility, and public space for the Clark Street corridor from Montrose Avenue to Foster Avenue.

The stretch of Clark Street in the 46th Ward has faced increasing development pressure for years, and a unified plan was sorely needed to address a corridor that was underutilized and scattered among the various ward, SSA, and neighborhood boundaries. Through the ample public engagement and feedback throughout, the Clark Street Crossroads corridor study provides a unified vision that will allow for informed decisions from stakeholders in the future. Based on the majority positive feedback this plan has received, it is clear that the community agreed that a vision was needed and that they are pleased with the resulting recommendations and guidelines presented in the final plan.

I urge the Chicago Plan Commission to adopt the Clark Street Crossroads corridor study so that Clark Street from Montrose to Foster can benefit from clear guidelines and recommendations in future development and investment along the corridor. I am in full support of the process and resulting study report.

If you have any questions or desire any further information, please contact Kylie Ruscheinski at my office at kylie.ruscheinski@cityofchicago.org or 773-878-4646.

Sincerely,

Alderman James Cappelman
46th Ward

MATT MARTIN
ALDERMAN, 47TH WARD
4243 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60618
PHONE: 773-868-4747
EMAIL: WARD47@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL**

— * —
COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL, ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RULES AND ETHICS
—
ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
—
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
ENERGY
—
HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE
—
HUMAN RELATIONS AND HEALTH
—
LICENSE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION COMMITTEE
—
PUBLIC SAFETY
—
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND RECREATION

March 7, 2023

Laura Flores
Chair, Chicago Plan Commission
121 North LaSalle Street
Room 1000, City Hall
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Clark Street Crossroads

Dear Chairperson Flores:

I am writing to communicate my support for the adoption of the Clark Street Crossroads study by the Chicago Plan Commission.

The recommendations in this study have been informed by a significant community process involving multiple neighborhood organizations and chambers of commerce, as well as hundreds of residents and businesses. These conversations—through community meetings, small-group conversations, and surveys—highlighted the community’s focus on improving the pedestrian and cyclist experience and safety along Clark St, further activating the public way, increasing density in strategic locations along the corridor, and fostering housing affordability on Clark St.

I intend to work closely with my aldermanic colleagues, the Departments of Planning & Development and Transportation, and the business and residential community to bring these recommendations to fruition.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Martin

MATT MARTIN
ALDERMAN, 47TH WARD
4243 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60618
PHONE: 773-868-4747
EMAIL: WARD47@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL, ROOM 200
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RULES AND ETHICS
ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY
HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE
HUMAN RELATIONS AND HEALTH
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND RECREATION

Alderman, 47th Ward

ANDRE VASQUEZ
ALDERMAN, 40TH WARD
5620 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659
PHONE: 773-654-1867
EMAIL: WARD40@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.40THWARD.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL**

— * —
COUNCIL CHAMBER
CITY HALL, ROOM 34
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-6858

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND RECREATION
(VICE-CHAIRMAN)
CONTRACT OVERSIGHT AND EQUITY
ECONOMIC, CAPITAL, AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
TRANSPORTATION AND THE PUBLIC WAY
ETHICS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEES AND RULES

March 9th, 2023

Ms. Laura Flores
Chair, Chicago Plan Commission
Department of Planning and Development
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 1101
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Clark Street Crossroads

I am writing to advise that I am aware of and in full support of the adoption of the Clark Street Crossroads Study by the Chicago Plan Commission. The Department of Planning and Development and Katharyn Hurd have worked hard to engage the local community, stakeholders, the local chambers of commerce and the 40th, 47th, and 46th Ward offices to put together a comprehensive study which not only bolsters the Clark Street corridor, but also serves as an example city-wide of good community planning.

The Clark Street Crossroads recommendations were carefully put together through thorough conversation and consideration of community input. The recommendations accurately convey the communities desires to increase bikeability and walkability in the corridor and increase much needed density along Clark St. We are committed to continuing to work with these stakeholders to utilize the Clark Street Crossroads Study for future planning efforts in this corridor and believe that the adoption of the Clark Street Crossroads study is an essential step in this process.

I appreciate your consideration of the adoption of the Clark Street Crossroads Study. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my Director of Development and Engagement, Morgan Madderom, at 773-999-3319 or by email at morgan@40thward.org.

Respectfully,

Andre Vasquez
Alderman – 40th Ward

Support for Clark
Street Crossroads
Corridor Study

February 23, 2023

Laura Flores, Chairwoman
City of Chicago
Department of Planning and Development
121 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1000

Dear Chairwoman Flores,

Uptown United is the nonprofit community economic development organization that serves Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. Our organization supports the passage of the Clark Street Crossroad Corridor Study by the Chicago Plan Commission.

Clark Street is truly a crossroads, bridging many different wards, special services areas, chambers of commerce and economic development organizations. Clark Street between Montrose and Foster has been on the periphery of development pressures for years. As early as 2018, Uptown United reviewed an increasing number of development proposals in and along the Clark Street corridor; however, lack of a cohesive vision for the corridor posed challenges for each entity to provide support.

In both 2018 and 2020, Uptown United advocated the Alder offices and DPD for an official planning effort funded by the Clark/Montrose TIF. From a January 2020 letter to Commissioner Cox: *"We envision that this plan will guide the various stakeholder groups, residents, private developers, and the City of Chicago in their decision-making process for development in this corridor. This study could provide a common framework across the various jurisdictions that serve this area."*

For nearly a year and a half, DPD engaged a broad group of stakeholders through virtual and in-person steering committee and community meetings to achieve what we advocated for: a framework the many stakeholders can use to facilitate thoughtful, meaningful development along this diverse corridor. It is understood that a framework is a guide for future implementation and not definitive decisions. Uptown United views the Clark Street Crossroads Corridor Study as a critical first step in initiating much-needed reviews of city policies.

Uptown United was encouraged to see "Increase Predictability and Consistency of Project Review and Approval Processes" the Pedestrian Street Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines specific call-outs: examples of site development concepts.

Since 2018, Uptown United has requested clear, consistent design and massing guidance that address shifts in development patterns, especially ground floor residential on commercial corridors. We were encouraged by the public input around desired density and aesthetics for new construction and renovation projects. These visual preferences are the first step in providing guidance as we continue to review projects in and near the Clark Street corridor.

Our mission is to build a strong, unified business environment; facilitate economic development; and strengthen community—all to nurture a diverse, vibrant, thriving, and strong Uptown. The Clark Street Crossroad Corridor Study is the first and much needed step in helping us achieve our mission in collaboration with all our neighbors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Wilson
Executive Director, Uptown United

CC:
Alderman James Cappleman, 46th Ward
Alderman Matthew Martin, 47th Ward
Jacqueline Loewe, Board Chair – Uptown United
Tressa Feher, Chair – Uptown United Development Partners

4619 N Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

info@
explorepruptown.org

Uptown
United

UPTOWN



Public comment in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street

Ainsley Harris <ainsley@gmail.com>

Fri 3/3/2023 4:41 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I'm writing to strongly endorse the construction of protected bike lanes between Foster and Monstrose on Clark Street. I have two young children, ages 4 and 2, and we love to bike. But the woeful patchwork of bike lanes in Chicago, combined with truck traffic and a large number of complex intersections, makes us hesitant to go for a ride.

Our hope would be that this project is a first step in an ongoing effort to create protected bike lanes throughout the city, especially on deadly streets like Milwaukee Ave and Halstead.

I understand that business owners are hesitant, and even resistant, to these models. But in my experience living in other cities, designs that encourage foot traffic, biking, public transit, and other forms of mobility have a strong positive effect on local businesses.

I hope the commission listens to the many, many families in this city who would like to see changes like this become commonplace, rather than the few loud voices advocating for the status quo. Embracing changes like these will make Chicago a place where families stay for the long-term.

Thank you,
Ainsley Harris

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Ainsley Harris
ainsley@gmail.com
847.989.3323

Public comment for Clark Street Crossroads

Alyssa McManus <alyssacmcmanus@gmail.com>

Fri 3/3/2023 7:02 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I am writing to show my support for the Clark Street Crossroads project to put in concrete protections for bike lanes. This is an important feature to add to our neighborhood, as one moment of inattention on the part of drivers could cost bicyclists their lives.

Thank you,

Alyssa McManus

Public+comment+in+support+of+protected+bike+lanes+on+Clark+Street

Loren Johnson <lorenordeanjohnson@gmail.com>

Fri 3/3/2023 3:46 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

As a local resident and frequent cyclist on Clark St. I am voicing my support of the concrete-protected bike lanes as a part of the Clark Street Crossroads plan. I'm excited to see a plan that supports denser housing, pedestrian safety, transit upgrades, and protected bike lanes all at the same time!

Please do not allow a few loud angry voices to delay or defer these needed vitality and safety improvements to our streets.

Best,

Loren Johnson, AIA

www.linkedin.com/in/lorenordeanjohnson

<https://lorenordeanjohnson.myportfolio.com/>

Public comment in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street

Matthew Bregg <matt@bregg.me>

Fri 3/3/2023 6:46 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hi,

I regularly bike down clark street, and so do my friends.

It can currently be a scary experience at times due to cars.

The protected bike lanes in the Clark Street Crossroads project would improve my life and make this much safer, so I strongly support them!

Thank you,
Matthew Bregg

Public comment in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street

Patrick O'Carroll <patrickrgocarroll@gmail.com>

Fri 3/3/2023 3:45 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I am an ICU nurse and homeowner in Chicago who commutes daily on bike. I strongly support adding concrete protected bike lanes on Clark Street from Montrose to Foster.

This will make for safer streets, improved business foot traffic, and decreased pollution.

-Patrick O'Carroll

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Best, Patrick

Clark Street Crossroads

Lacey Cordero <mslacey@gmail.com>

Sun 3/5/2023 9:00 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello,

I am a long-time Chicago resident and mother of three kids.

I wanted to write to voice my strong support for the Clark Street Crossroads proposal.

I bike every day with my family, and this gives me access to use a portion of Clark Street and utilize the shops on that street when I would not currently ride on Clark. the pedestrian supports on the corners add so much "peace of mind" when walking with children.

I also support the denser housing and transit upgrades involved in the project.

I'm grateful for your efforts to try to improve Chicago.

Thank you for your time,

Lacey Cordero

312.520.3940

Public comment in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street

Michael Kaiser-Nyman <michaelrkn@gmail.com>

Sun 3/5/2023 10:37 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

I'm writing in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street. I've biked on this street many times and, like many Chicago streets, it can be a dangerous and scary experience. Protected bike lanes will make cycling in Chicago safer and help more people who want to bike but are afraid of getting hurt or killed by cars feel comfortable starting to ride. I hope you'll move forward with this plan.

Michael Kaiser-Nyman
3816 W North Ave #3E
Chicago IL 60647

Public comment in support of protected bike lanes on Clark Street

Kyle Terry <kyle.terry21@gmail.com>

Tue 3/7/2023 8:17 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Greetings, Planning Commission -

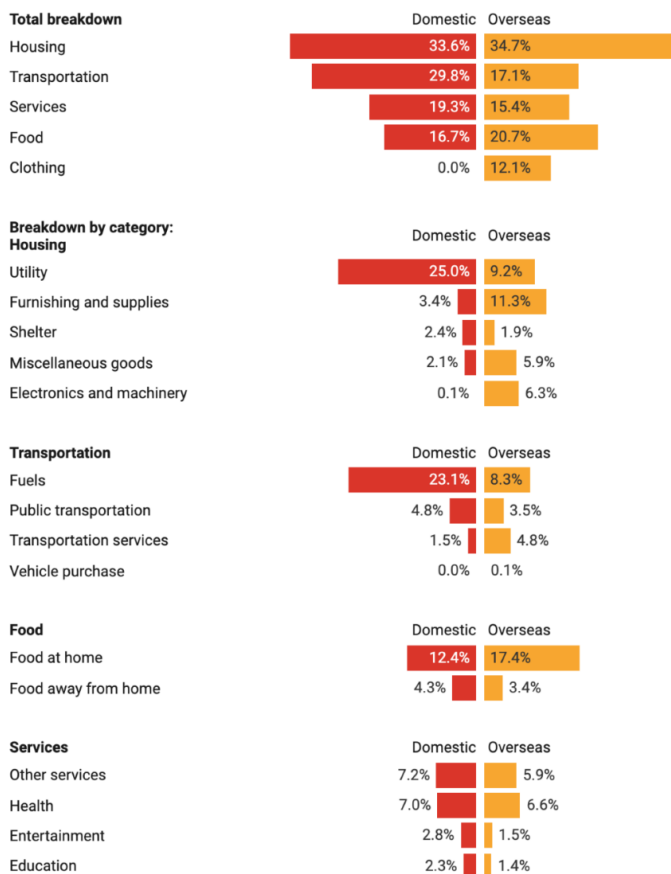
I'd like to verbalize my support for the Clark Street Crossroads Project generally, and really make the case for protected bike lanes in that project.

First, bike lanes have been shown in [study](#) after [study](#) to [DRIVE retail traffic](#). Also, [retailers often underestimate](#) the share of shoppers arriving by non-auto modes.

Second, **Chicago has climate goals to reach**, and getting people out of their cars helps with that. According to this 2019 study, transportation is responsible for nearly 30% of Americans' emissions, and of that 29.8%, 77.5% of transportation emissions are directly related to private automobile use. The earth is straight up dying - let's try and heal it before it's too late.

U.S. household emissions

Transportation and housing account for more than half of all U.S. household emissions, both at home and overseas.



Lastly, Clark Street was identified as a "spoke route" in the Chicago Streets for Cycling 2020 plan. As you can see below, the top two designs are physically separated and protected lanes for these types of routes:



3 Spoke Routes

g It Happen
2020 Network
What We Heard
Chicago NOW
Bicycling In
Introduction

Thousands of people commute to Downtown Chicago on a daily basis by bike. Some of these commuters come from the edges of the City as well as the suburbs. Providing designated commuting routes to the Loop will make it safer and more convenient for employees to bike to and from work.

Spoke Routes are direct routes in and out of the Loop that will provide a safe, continuous bikeway and connect all areas of Chicago with the downtown. The primary goal of the Spoke Route network is to increase bicycle commuting citywide.

The seven Spoke Routes are:

1. Clark Street
2. Milwaukee Avenue
3. Lake Street/Randolph Street
4. Archer Avenue
5. Vincennes Avenue
6. South Chicago Avenue
7. State Street/Wabash Avenue

The design of the Spoke Routes will follow the same process as the Crosstown Routes:

- Barrier protected bike lanes (preferred treatment)
- Two-way barrier protected bike lanes

Cycling is dangerous for anyone in Chicago, let alone young people or seniors. Let's do something good on Clark with this plan and begin to change how dangerous our streets are for those not in autos.

Thank you -
Kyle Terry

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Kyle Terry
(209) 829-9278

Clark Street Crossroad Public Comment (Proponent)

Neil Marklund <nmarklund10@outlook.com>

Thu 3/9/2023 2:50 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

To Whom It May Concern,

As a resident at 600 W Diversey Pkwy, I am writing in support of the Clark Street Crossroads Plan.

I especially like the aspects of the plan that include protected bike lanes, walkability, and encouraging dense development along this corridor. It has been shown that mixed use developments create a sense of place and will attract high foot traffic and increase the desirability for people to visit and live in the area. Clark street south of this corridor is already one of the top destinations in the city for small businesses and places to live, so it is encouraging we are taking the same methods and extending them northward.

If I had to make suggestions, I would explore the possibility of creating bike lanes level with the sidewalk as is common in some European countries. In addition, any opportunities to pedestrianize portions of the corridor will increase vibrancy and revenue for businesses in the area. You can make it easy for residents to get to this area with high quality bike lanes or letting buses through the car-free areas.

Thank you for your time in creating this promising plan for this portion of Clark Street!

Best,

Neil Marklund
305-302-4073

Clark Street Crossroads Corridor : March 2023 Plan Commission Hearing

searah deysach <searah@early2bed.com>

Fri 3/10/2023 10:33 AM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the Clark Street Crossroads Corridor project. As a small business owner and mixed-use property owner at 5138 N Clark St, I have grave concerns about the proposed parking removal for protected bike lanes shown on page 74 of the study proposal ("Protected Bike Lane Concepts").

While I understand that there is much more to be done before this project is implemented, I would like to point out that removing half of the parking in our district would have a grave and serious impact on the small businesses in the area.

I ask that before any decisions are finalized about removing any parking along Clark street that public meetings are held with stockholders who live, work and run businesses in the affected area. I ask that there be a study done to show the economic effects that replacing parking with bike lanes has on small businesses in traffic heavy neighborhoods like ours.

After surviving the effects of COVID restrictions and the subsequent economic realities of rapidly rising inflation, our independently-owned and small businesses need all the help we can get to continue to survive and hopefully thrive in Chicago and this bike lane as proposed will cause us direct harm.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Searah Deysach

Owner

Early to Bed

5138 N Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640

Clark Street Crossroads Plan - Comment

Ethan Saltzberg <saltzberg.ethan@gmail.com>

Sat 3/11/2023 5:38 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

To the Chicago Plan Commission,

My name is Ethan Saltzberg, and I would like to leave public comment on the draft plan of Clark Street Crossroads, which the commission will consider for approval on Thursday, March 16th.

I utilize this corridor a lot, whether visiting restaurants like Pick Me Up Cafe or Tiztal Cafe, going shopping, or passing through Clark St to reach other neighborhoods south and north. I drive my car, walk, bike, use e-scooters, and take the 22 Clark bus through this corridor.

The highlight of this plan for me is the land use policies. The frontage in this area is unique and should be built upon, and I think the plan has wonderful recommendations for how to use land that is currently undeveloped, vacant, or in need of rehab, while not affecting existing frontages and businesses/homes already there today. With historic gems like the Issel Building, as well as new and thriving businesses like the Black Ensemble Theatre, these are wonderful policy recommendations and they have my support.

The mobility aspects are wonderful, too. Other areas of Clark St benefit from people-centered design (such as Andersonville just to the north), and this plan prioritizes both safety and livability. The protected bike lanes will keep me and others (especially families) safe on bikes and scooters, intersection improvements will make crossing the street safer for pedestrians, and bus improvements will make traveling to and through this corridor speedier. I think the amount of time and research involved in workshopping the street layout (such as parking studies) has warranted the changes recommended in this plan, and they should be approved in full.

Lastly, I absolutely love the people-focused "public realm" activations in this plan. Little plazas on side streets are absolutely underrated opportunities to make attractive public space in a grid-shaped city like Chicago, and the attention to outdoor dining and green infrastructure will both make this corridor an even more attractive place to live and visit. The ideas here may be bold, but I think that's exactly what this corridor needs to attract more businesses and residents to this area while keeping the neighborhood character.

In summary, all broad and specific aspects of this plan are wonderful. Given the huge number of residents providing support and input to this plan, rest assured that it has the full support of the community, and I urge you to approve this plan in full.

Thank you,
Ethan Saltzberg

Concerned Small Business Owner - Clark Street Crossroads Corridor Project

Milk Handmade <milkchicago@gmail.com>

Sat 3/11/2023 4:55 PM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in regards to the Clark Street Crossroads Corridor project. I am a small business owner of 2 Chicago businesses, and one of them is located at 5137 N Clark. I am also an avid biker and advocate of safe bike lanes. However, the proposed parking removal for protected bike lanes on Clark street is extremely concerning to me. Removing half of the parking in our area would have a devastating effect on my small business. It would endanger the Andersonville businesses located South-of-Foster, and alienate them from the rest of the community. While I'm typically in support of more bike lanes, removing parking in a busy shopping district does not make sense. We could use this type of bike lane on Ashland — a road that could actually be used as a thoroughfare and doesn't struggle from lack of parking, rather than the bustling Clark Street district.

Please, speak to and visit with some of the small business owners in the area that would be affected. No one from the city has attempted to contact me about this, and my business would be absolutely devastated by it. After 11 successful years in business, I believe this would likely cause us to close.

Andersonville's independently-owned small businesses need all the help we can get to continue thriving in the "Small Business Capital of Chicago", and this bike lane proposal will cause us direct harm.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to follow up with any questions.

-Hallie

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Hallie Borden (she/her)

Milk Handmade + Honey Bridal

www.milkhandmade.com

www.honey-bridal.com

Insta @milkhandmade | @honey_bridal

Written Comment: Clark Street Crossroads

Nihal Dantluri <nihal@nihal.tv>

Wed 3/15/2023 6:06 AM

To: CPC <CPC@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Hello!

My name is Nihal Dantluri and I am a resident of the 47th Ward. I live on the west end of the ward, so my visits to Clark Street are mostly confined to days I am not working, which is often on the weekend!

In the past, I have typically drove my car to Andersonville/Clark due to the biking infrastructure on Clark to be less than adequate to be safe. Usually, it is quite difficult to drive to Clark due to the high amount of congestion, so I would welcome biking as an option to visit the business corridor.

I am in strong support of removing parking from one side of the street to accommodate protected bike lanes up and down Clark. Personally, I would visit the corridor much more if protected bike lanes are installed, because it would mean less time sitting in traffic, and it would make it much more of a destination. I hope the CPC follows through with the plan of PBL's, because I think the increased traffic from them could help local businesses.

Truthfully, I don't believe that removing one aide of parking on Clark would cause the corridor to lose customers that are drivers. I don't believe that drivers won't go to a specific neighborhood because it is hard to park there, which it already is along Clark, so removing one side of street parking would not change much.

I believe this would benefit the neighborhood a great deal and look forward to the PBL's!

I also think CDOT people's spots could be incorporated onto Clark more often as well!

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Best,

Nihal Dantluri

630.360.5706