



Ben Kessler <bkessler@bexley.org>

Support for Bike Lanes on Drexel Avenue

Zach Luck <zach.luck@gmail.com>

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To: mayor@bexley.org, nvawter@bexley.org, lfeibel@bexley.org, tmarkham@bexley.org, mklingler@bexley.org, mlampke@bexley.org, rsharp@bexley.org, jrobinson@bexley.org, jsaad@bexley.org

Cc: Sara <sararose.luck@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor Kessler and Bexley City Council Members,

We are writing to support the proposal for protected bike lanes on South Drexel Avenue. We live at [381 South Drexel](#) and have been living on this street since 2014. We are the parents of four young children that attend Bexley schools or will soon.

Thank you for planning an investment in the South Drexel corridor. We have loved raising our children in Bexley and loved living on this street. Nevertheless, as many mentioned in the recent meeting on this topic, traffic moves fast on Drexel. As the primary thoroughfare from Broad to Main this makes sense, but it also has a safety and quality of life impact. All the proposed plans would greatly improve the traffic situation and safety at crosswalks. The new signage at Drexel and Fair has already been a significant improvement and any of these proposals will make the situation even better.

Protected bike lanes on Drexel would improve quality of life on this street and for everyone in Bexley. The proposed bike lane is a better option than the boulevards because Bexley needs biking infrastructure and, as noted in the Bexley bike plan, Drexel would be the perfect place to start.

The absence of protected bike lanes or identified safe biking paths has been a noticeable disappointment since moving to Bexley. Columbus, which itself has been behind the curve of many cities, has substantially more prominent and usable infrastructure to support biking than Bexley. Biking infrastructure is good for the environment and good for kids. Creating separate, protected bike lanes on Drexel would allow children and families to more safely bike to school, ice cream, movies, and community events at Capital and Jeffrey Mansion.

Creating boulevards would benefit those of us on this street but would not have spillover benefits for the community and our environment. Creating bike lanes would do both.

At the recent meeting some of our neighbors suggested that the loss of street parking would be a reason to not create protected bike lanes. We disagree, there is nearly always ample parking. On the rare occasion when this would be an inconvenience it seems a small price to pay to support a safer and healthier community.

Thank you for considering these important improvements to our neighborhood,

Zach & Sara Luck