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Resident Support for Bike Lane on Drexel

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To: mayor@bexley.org, tmarkahm@bexley.org, lfeibel@bexley.org, mklingler@bexley.org, mlampke@bexley.org, smarcellino@bexley.org, jrobinson@bexley.org, jsaad@bexley.org

Hello Mayor and Council,

I've been informed of the initiative to improve Drexel Ave and the two plans: Option A being a median and Option B being a protected bike lane.

I'm a Bexley resident, and I've been living, driving and cycling all around Columbus for 18 years. Over the years my commutes on a bike have taken me from downtown, German Village and Bexley out to my office in Gahanna. I am very familiar with the challenges of safely navigating surface streets to get from one side of town to the other. Too many neighborhoods lack safe lanes and paths for cyclists. If Bexley has the opportunity to improve at least one road that will make a big difference. As an experienced cyclist it can be hard knowing which roads are safe, and sometimes you just take the risk on a road. This risk is not acceptable for inexperienced riders and kids. Dedicated bike lanes and infrastructure are a huge help for people looking to understand what is safe.

Creating a north/south corridor for cycling is an important step forward, an east/west corridor is also needed. The Drexel initiative provides an opportunity to take this step. I drive a car almost daily and enjoy driving, but as a society we've spent many decades emphasizing cars over all other forms of transit including buses, cycling and even walking. It would be wonderful to envision a future where infrastructure plans such as the Drexel initiative support not just cars but also other modes of transportation that can be safer, more environmentally friendly and more community oriented.

Again I wish to share my support for the protected bike lane along Drexel Avenue.

Best,
Erik Turocy
Bexley Resident