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In Favor of Bike Lanes on South Drexel Avenue

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To: mayor@bexley.org

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Hello.

As a resident of the City of Bexley, especially a person who resides in a building on Drexel Avenue, I'm writing to **support Option B of the recommended improvements to Drexel Avenue**. I live in an apartment building near the corner of Drexel Avenue and Main Street; so I am aware of how these proposed changes would affect my daily life.

I would personally love to see protected bike lanes installed on Drexel. Having protected bike lanes would make me much more comfortable in riding through the city, whether on my personal bike or using a CoGo bike. I also want these bike lanes in order to have a clear passageway that connects to existing bike paths throughout Columbus as it would make it much easier for me to navigate and ride in peace.

Overall, I believe Option B is the better approach to improve access and safety for all roadway users of Drexel Avenue. Adding protected bike lanes would not only make Bexley a leader in bike infrastructure in central Ohio but would create a dramatic improvement in safety and comfort for people using Drexel Avenue, whether riding, driving or just walking. Option A does not adequately address the present condition of a wide street where cars go fast creating unsafe conditions. The median (Option A) will continue to encourage people to drive at a fast pace. Perhaps even faster, since the majority of the street will be large and open with less parked cars that are not using the space as much. Option B will slow down traffic and create safer, better conditions for both pedestrians and cyclists.

These lanes were recommended in the Bike Friendly Bexley Recommendations and there are many benefits for Bexley residents and the community at large.

Benefits include:

Dramatically increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety

Creating a direct north - south route connecting Bexley with other existing and future bike trails

Providing environmental benefits, reducing pollution and helping to reduce greenhouse gasses

Providing an equitable transportation option for residents and workers in Bexley resulting in economic benefits

I agree with how these benefits would support my goals. In general, creating separate, protected bike

lanes on Drexel would allow children and families to more safely bike to school, for fun, to community events and businesses; further cementing Bexley's place as one of the most livable cities in central Ohio.

As someone with an interest in seeing Bexley thrive and flourish even more in the upcoming years, that is why I am writing in support of Option B. I would love to take advantage of the bike lanes myself when the time arises.

Best regards,

Alex Mezhvinsky