



Ben Kessler &lt;bkessler@bexley.org&gt;

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## Drexel Avenue Improvement Plan

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**Rebecca Ness** <ness.thousandgold@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 10:09 PM

To: Ben Kessler <mayor@bexley.org>, Troy Markham <tmarkham@bexley.org>, lfeibel@bexley.org, mklingler@bexley.org, mlampke@bexley.org, smarcellino@bexley.org, Jen Robinson <jrobinson@bexley.org>, jsaad@bexley.org, Craig Ness <ness.craig@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor Kessler and City Council,

I wear many hats in the Drexel Avenue Improvement Plan discussion: I'm a cyclist, a mother of two young cyclists, my husband is an avid, year round bike commuter, my small business is located on Main Street and I serve on Green Bexley. No matter which hat I'm wearing, I'm strongly in favor of Plan B, adding bike lanes to Drexel Avenue.

As the proposal is based on a Bexley Bike Infrastructure plan that had a lot of thought and community input, I trust the findings that Drexel is an ideal location for a bike lane in Bexley. While I recognize that change is often challenging and some may feel inconvenienced, more people on bikes benefits the whole community by protecting our air quality and increasing street safety. Cars continually get bigger which means crashes are more dangerous and cyclists at greater risk. I believe we need to put individual conveniences aside and choose each other, the community, the planet.

There are many Bexley residents who would like to bike, but do not feel safe doing so and bike lanes would help to keep cyclists safer. Once riders feel protected and respected with a dedicated lane, I believe many more people will choose bikes for transportation. This will ease traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and increase our safety for cyclists of all ages.

Regarding our air quality, the US Department of Transportation reports that car trips of under a mile add up to about 10 billion miles per year. If we replaced half of those car trips with other modes, it could reduce our yearly CO2 emissions by 2 million metric tons, as estimated by the EPA. As Bexley is a small city, with many destinations bikeable and walkable, these modes of transportation should be encouraged to help bring emissions down.

Bikes Make Everything Better.

Rebecca

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