
» ATTACHMENT E
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TRANSMITTAL
LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL (May 13, 2019)



Transportation Commission

TRANSMITTAL

May 13, 2019

RE: Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Project Assessment and Next Steps

Honorable Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers:

Transportation Commission members are honored by your trust and confidence in selecting us to oversee the Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative (PBII). In this capacity, we have been guided by Council's program principles as we collaborate with staff and the community to advance the PBII scope of work.

At our March 28, 2019 meeting, with a vote of four in favor and two opposed, the Transportation Commission endorsed the staff recommendation to retain the 108th Avenue Northeast Demonstration Bikeway with refinements to the design per community feedback and staff observations. The Commission recommendation is informed by the Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Assessment Report that offers comprehensive insight into project impacts and benefits – measurable and perceived – on all street users. To assist the Commission in its evaluation of the demonstration project, staff compiled data from pavement loop detectors, bluetooth readers, thermal sensors, video analytics, attitudinal questionnaires, street level and video observations, and conversations with residents, businesses, transit coach operators, and other stakeholders.

Commissioners voting in favor of the March 28 staff recommendation determined that the installation of the demonstration bikeway had a positive impact on community outcomes in safety, efficiency, and livability including an overall positive impact on multimodal travel. Commissioners observed that the 108th Avenue Northeast Demonstration Bikeway is a step in the right direction towards the development of a north-south bicycle route through downtown that connects to the regional network. In conclusion, the corridor can be regarded as a success to date.

Commissioners voting against the March 28 staff recommendation determined that: "(i) there are no significant safety benefits identified; (ii) there is no significant increase in bicycle usage on 108th Ave. NE related to the demonstration bikeway project; (iii) bus operations have been negatively impacted; and, (iv) the insignificant increase in bike trips does not warrant the loss of mobility for other travel modes." In conclusion, Commissioners voting against the staff recommendation proposed that "the demonstration bikeway on 108th Ave. NE be removed, and the pre-existing vehicle travel lanes be re-established."

The Transportation Commission recognizes it must consider the broader context within which the transportation network evolves—how it preserves and enhances economic vitality, community character, human health, and environmental resources—in addition to serving peoples' mobility needs. Given these considerations, the Transportation Commission voted to retain the 108th Avenue Northeast Bikeway and to implement refinements to the corridor per community feedback and staff observations. Transportation Levy funds are available to implement the 108th Avenue Northeast Bikeway refinements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in orange ink, appearing to read "Lei Wu".

Lei Wu

Chair, Transportation Commission