Dear City Councilor,

We want the streets of Columbus to be safe for all people, whether they are walking, bicycling, taking transit or driving. We are writing to request that the City continue to endorse the Complete Streets Policy to make our streets livable, safe and comfortable for everyone.

The Problem:

Due to car-centric development and sprawling land-use patterns, our community’s streets disproportionally favor the automobile. Lack of sidewalks, bike lanes and accessible transit stops create major safety, health and quality of life concerns for residents. Furthermore, for those who can’t drive or don’t own a car, getting to work, school or another neighborhood in the region can be a nearly impossible task.

The Solution:

In order to promote safe, equitable, and comfortable streets for all users, we urge you to join over 1,100 other municipalities and agencies nationwide to support the development and adoption of a Complete Streets Policy in our community. Complete Streets are designed to support all road users including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders and motorists regardless of age, race, income and ability. They will make it easier for seniors to get to doctor’s appointments and kids to get to school. They will make it easier to cross the street, walk to shops and bicycle to work. By creating more transportation options and designing streets with everyone in mind, our community will benefit environmentally, economically and socially.

The Action:

City Council has passed a Complete Streets Policy that helps ensure everyone is considered in future transportation plans and projects. Please support creating livable, healthy streets in Columbus for everyone and commit to furthering the Complete Streets Policy.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Date

Salutation (Dear Council Member, Mayor, Commissioner, etc.)

Paragraph 1 - I support every effort to make bicycling a safe, accessible activity in our region. [Include a brief statement about who you are (person who gets around by walking or rolling, parent riding a bike with kids, etc.)]

Paragraph 2 - State the specific issue about which you are writing

Use relevant data, when applicable, to back up your issue

Paragraph 3 - Tell your personal story in a heartfelt, but brief manner. Why should they care? How does this issue affect you?

Reminder about the benefits of Bicycling and Walking - “Not only is non-motorized transportation good for the environment, it is better for the health and well-being of our residents.”

Closing (Thank you, Sincerely, etc.)

Name and home address