



RE: Bike Cleveland Position Statement- Ontario Street Repaving

Bike Cleveland is disappointed the city of Cleveland did not take the recent opportunity with the resurfacing of Ontario Street to provide adequate bike infrastructure. The wide, high-traffic road is a dangerous corridor for cyclists, right near ODOT's recent investment in a high-quality separated path on the Lorain Carnegie Bridge.

Through our involvement in the City of Cleveland's Complete and Green Streets Taskforce Bike Cleveland had asked the city to add bike lanes on Ontario Street. Instead, the city added sharrows from Eagle to Public Square, Bus/Bike lanes through Public Square and a mix of sharrows/bike lanes north to Lakeside. While this may honor the letter of our new complete streets law, we do not think it fits the spirit.

The goals of the City of Cleveland's Complete and Green Streets Ordinance as stated in the laws language is to "address the livability and environmental needs of our community with multipurpose streets that better accommodate walkers, cyclists and public transportation..." Furthermore the ordinance states that "Cleveland's network of complete streets will provide safe desirable travel for all users of ALL ages and abilities and accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit..."

Given the protected accommodation on the Lorain Carnegie Bridge, along with future trail connections that will be coming from the south to the Ontario/Carnegie intersection with the Innerbelt project, **making a safe connection for people on bikes of all abilities along Ontario is important.**

To this end Bike Cleveland worked with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative and Green City Blue Lake to develop an immediately implementable plan that connects cyclists of all abilities from Eagle Avenue to the Bike Rack at E. 4th and High St. **We would like to present this plan to the Complete and Green Streets Taskforce for approval. Please note that Bike Cleveland views the alternate plan as an interim solution and encourages the city to revisit the striping of Ontario Avenue as the planning process of closing Ontario through Public Square moves forward.**

As the city of Cleveland continues to become a friendly place for cyclists of all ages and abilities, it is important to balance the needs of all users during repaving and reconstruction projects. By creating a dedicated facility on Ontario Avenue for bicycles the corridor will make riding a bicycle more attractive to a wider range of bicyclists and improve comfort and safety of all road users (a New York study found that protected bike lanes made a street 40% safer for all road users, not just people on bicycles).

All follow-up regarding a response to this position statement should be directed to Bike Cleveland executive director Jacob VanSickle at 216-245-3101 or Jacob@bikecleveland.org.

