



Sustainability Action Network

Local Solutions for Transition to a Sustainable Economy

P.O. Box 1064, Lawrence KS 66044
a Kansas 501(C)(3) not-for-profit

Mayor Aron Cromwell
Lawrence City Hall
6 east 6th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

20 December 2011

re: 6th & Iowa St. geometric improvements, agenda item #4

Dear Mayor Cromwell:

The "Electric & Human Powered Vehicles Committee" of the Sustainability Action Network has discussed with Public Works several options for improving bicycle access in the vicinity of Iowa St. from 6th to 15th Streets, and points west. This nexus is especially problematic for bicyclists.

Our foremost goal is a bicycle-pedestrian bridge across Iowa St. from 7th Street, which dead-ends behind the Hillcrest Apartments, westward into Centennial Park. Once a person reaches the edge of Centennial Park, they could then get to the shopping node at 9th St., or connect through the park to bicycle side-trails or bicycle routes heading west.

While Public Works appreciates this option, they are not currently pursuing construction funding for this project on its own merits. With the advent of a Complete Streets Policy, there may be a shift in priorities.

In the meanwhile, Public Works has been working on a geometric design for a partial solution for the bicycle impasse at 6th & Iowa Streets, which at least would address access improvements to 9th & Iowa Streets. Shoeb Uddin has developed a plan to locate a ten foot wide multi-use trail on the east side of Iowa St. that skirts the edge of the 6th & Iowa interchange.

Beginning at the drive entrance to Hillcrest Apartments on 6th St., the side-trail would curve southward around the hill and proceed along the east side of Iowa St. south to 9th St. The engineering drawings exist. All that is lacking is the will and the funding.

The Lawrence Peak Oil Plan emphasizes the importance of transportation alternatives to the automobile. A Complete Streets Policy urges bicycle facilities be considered as equal to auto facilities. The logical time to fund this 6th & Iowa multi-use trail is in conjunction with the interchange upgrade, as Federal policy recommends. Please add from 5-10% to the project budget to pay for the bicycle multi-use trail.

Thank you,

Michael Almon
<http://www.sustainabilityaction.net>