



# 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

Lawrence City Commission  
City Hall, 6 East 6th St.  
Lawrence KS 66044

20 October 2015

re: Bicycle Corrals, Consent Agenda #10

Mayor Amyx & Commission:

Sustainability Action is very supportive of using bicycle corrals to increase the overall parking capacity of downtown. They meet our goal of ecological sustainability by encouraging increased bicycle transportation and reducing motor vehicle use to downtown. However, we want to point out that the grant-dependent funding of these corrals is not economically sustainable.

If the Commission is interested in reliable and predictable financing for bicycle corrals, you would be wise to follow the well established models being used in virtually every other community – that of fee based and merchant initiated projects. As such, bicycle corrals are self-starter projects, and self funded.

Here's how some other communities handle it:

1. A merchant initiates a request if they think they would gain business by having more bicycle parking in front of their location, and one less auto parking space.
2. Public Works reviews the application, and in some communities there is a public hearing.
3. If approved, the city provides the parking rack, installation, signs, delineator posts, and permits; and invoices the merchant (average \$3000).
4. The merchant agrees to keep the corral free of debris and snow.
5. There could be an annual per-square-foot fee, as for sidewalk dining.

There are multiple advantages to this model. There is no resistance from merchants, because they request the corral. There are no costs to the City, because the merchant pays. The neighbors have an opportunity to weigh in on the location. The maintenance is not a problem for City crews. The corral could be a revenue generator.

Please instruct staff to investigate an ordinance with the above process and components, and bring it back to the Commission for consideration.

Thank you,

Michael Almon  
Bicycle & Alternative Transportation Program