

“Complete Streets” on Shoal Creek Boulevard

Dear Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo and Council Members Gallo and Pool,

We thank you for your service to the citizens of Austin and your very thoughtful consideration of addressing community needs, including street safety. As neighbors and community leaders, we are collectively communicating our concern for the safety of our citizens, more specifically our children, their ability to access neighborhood destinations and schools. **One way to address these concerns is to make Shoal Creek Boulevard a Complete Street with protected bike lanes and pedestrian safety improvements.**

Our neighborhoods would greatly benefit from the redesign of the roadway to better address the needs and safety of cyclists and pedestrians. As a neighborhood school, a large portion of “Lamar Middle School” students and their families walk or bike to and from school. Children walk or bike along Shoal Creek Blvd. daily, from Hancock to Anderson Blvd.

There are many schools, religious institutions and public facilities in our immediate and surrounding area – including Gullett Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, in addition to Northwest Park, St. John’s church - that are important amenities to the community, and should be connected with walking and biking routes that are designed to be safe enough for people of all ages and abilities to use.

There have been some bicycle facility improvements along Shoal Creek Boulevard, but they are inconsistent. The current design combines the use of bicycles and car parking for the majority of the street. These gaps not only discourage bicycle use, but could lead to tragic incidences for those that rely on this infrastructure daily. In addition to increased safety, improving Shoal Creek Boulevard’s infrastructure would create great economic benefits. When our neighbors are more geographically mobile, they also become more economically mobile. Protected bike lanes and safe sidewalks can connect residents as far as downtown, including other job opportunities along the way.

The Lamar Middle School Community has the following concerns that would like you to please take into consideration:

- **Protected bike lanes along the entirety of Shoal Creek Boulevard, not to present an intrusion to the neighborhood or the street (an example of intrusive protected lanes can be seen in Hancock and Mopac)**
- **A bike/pedestrian crossing signal at the 2222 intersection**
- **Pedestrian islands, crosswalks and flashing lights along Shoal Creek Blvd to protect pedestrians at key crossing points**

We look forward to working with you to sustain the health, wellness and vitality of our community by improving residents’ ability to safely access retail, jobs, schools, and other public facilities.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Wallace, Lamar Middle School
Lamar Middle School PTA Executive Board