

Dear Council Members Alter and Pool,

We write to thank you for your service to Austin and your careful consideration of how to address community needs, including street safety. As businesses, non-profit and community leaders, we are writing out of concern for the safety of our customers and neighbors, their ability to access neighborhood destinations, and contribute economically to your districts.

We believe that 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 benefit greatly from the redesign of the roadway to better address the needs of cyclists and pedestrians. There are many schools, religious institutions and public facilities in the area - including Gullett Elementary, Temple Beth Israel, Highland Park Elementary, Pillow Elementary, Northwest Recreation Center, Bryker Woods Elementary, Lamar Middle School, Anderson Lane shopping district, and Burnet Road shopping district - 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. Children do, in fact, bike along Shoal Creek Boulevard, despite its condition.

There have been some bicycle facility improvements along Shoal Creek Boulevard, but they are inconsistent. The current design combines uses for 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.

In addition to a need for overall safer conditions for bicycles and pedestrians, community members and organizations have expressed a desire for several particular improvements:

- Protected bike lanes along the entirety of Shoal Creek Boulevard
- An underpass and urban trail at the Allandale Rd. intersection.
- Large painted "sharrows" in the travel lanes.
- A bike/pedestrian crossing signal at the 45th St. intersection.
- Pedestrian islands at key crossing points.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Bonilla, McCallum PTSA President
McCallum PTSA
Go Knights

Bike Austin