



Coalition for Smarter Growth

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From: Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth

Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 9:03 AM

To: William Euille; Allison Silberberg; Paul Smedberg; Timothy Lovain; Del Pepper; Justin Wilson; John Chapman

Subject: King St Bike Lanes are a "crossroads" decision for Alexandria

Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

I have been quite surprised and concerned that opponents to safe, connected bike lanes on King Street between the Metro and Janneys Lane have elevated the issue to make it a national cause célèbre in conservative circles with extremely hostile OpEds in the Wall Street Journal and the American Spectator. They are bringing negative publicity upon Alexandria and threaten the ability of our city to attract young, well-educated, creative, entrepreneurial workers that are so critical to the future of our economy and tax base. Alexandria has been making great progress in bringing sustainable new development, investing in new transit, setting up bike-sharing, and more, but this particular debate is casting a shadow on that progress and will chase away the creative economy workforce and the businesses they attract.

We recognize the technical issues involved in this stretch of road and have researched all of the information available from the city's studies, the position of the opponents and the supporters, and checked the corridor to look at parking usage, and the available driveways and alleys. It is our conclusion that the connected bike lanes are reasonable, will provide a critical east-west connection where there are far too few, and will make travel safer for bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers, and for the residents pulling in and out of their driveways. The residents either have driveways on the north side or uphill direction of King Street, or alleys and rear driveways on the south or downhill side of the street. The compromise proposal of a wider 5 foot bike lane on the uphill side will allow for a buffer for those pulling and out of their driveways.

Therefore we support the fully connected bike lanes (with the wider one on the uphill direction) and oppose the latest proposal for sharrows, and have sent the email that you see below to our members/supporters in Alexandria.

I sincerely hope that you will support the bike lanes because it will send a strong signal about your commitment to a sustainable and competitive future for Alexandria.

Thank you,

Stewart Schwartz