

August 17, 2023

via U.S. Mail and email

Mayor Bruce Harrell
600 4th Ave., 7th floor
Seattle WA 98104

Cc via email:

Seattle City Council
Susan Fletcher, Federal Transit Administration District 10
Lyle Bicknell, Urban Planner, OPCD
Rico Quirindongo, Director, OPCD
Greg Spots, Director SDOT
Adiam Emery, Exe General Manager

Dear Mayor Harrell:

We are members of the Eastlake Community Council Board of Directors who disagree with the letter that was sent to you on or about August 10 by our board president. The vote to approve the letter was a six to four vote, in no way unanimous.

The city's plan for Eastlake Ave. is a good one in the midst of competing priorities and difficult choices. RapidRide J-Line and protected bike lanes are needed as density in our urban village continues to grow.

The main issue for Eastlake business owners and residents is the loss of parking along Eastlake Ave. that these changes would bring. However, studies* have shown that removing parking for bike lanes has a neutral to positive effect on nearby businesses. Eastlake businesses will continue to flourish with the RapidRide J project that will make the neighborhood safer and more pedestrian friendly. **Studies featured in 01/23/2023 WIRED article: ["The Battle Over Bike Lanes Needs a Mindset Shift."](#)*

Protected bike lanes along both sides of Eastlake Ave., fulfill a long-desired bikeway in the city's bike master plan that will promote and encourage sustainable travel such as bicycling, scootering, and skating in Eastlake and Seattle as whole. Eastlake Ave. is currently unsafe for bicyclists, and it is the most direct route for motorists and bicyclists alike. It is time we allow bicyclists the same direct route that motorists have long enjoyed.

The new rapid transit line and bicycle lanes will shift Eastlake Ave. from a car-centric corridor to a more walkable and pedestrian friendly corridor with priority given to traffic calming bicycle lanes and public transit.

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While there may be room for further improvements and refinements, the plan is a positive shift that helps to address climate change while making Eastlake more livable.

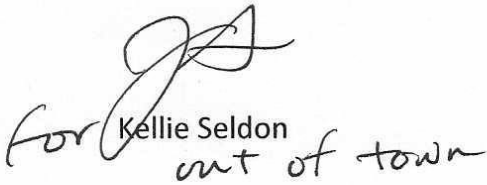
Sincerely,



Judy Smith



Zach Wurtz



for Kellie Seldon
out of town



Angela Shier