

10/12/2019

Mayor Don Stielow and  
North Kansas City Council  
2010 Howell Street  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

Dear Mayor Stielow and Members of the City Council:

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic regard for the new multimodal street design on Armour Road, and for the overall culture of pedestrianism and bicycling that the City of North Kansas City has been fostering and advancing in recent years. It's forward-thinking in so ways that resonate well beyond bicycle culture - making the roads safer for everyone, diversifying flow, circulation and exchange within the city, and strengthening a sustainable framework for the expansion of an economic and cultural boom in North Kansas City that is already well underway.

The current dispute that has arisen around the Complete Streets initiative and the Bike Master Plan is not about bicycles. It's about the fear of change. Like many light industrial areas across the country, North Kansas City is undergoing a natural evolution, with some of its building stock aging out as useful manufacture or distribution sites, and finding new uses in the service and experience economies.

Industry remains strong in North Kansas City and that will continue to be the case even as some parts of the city evolve into entertainment, hospitality, and family-oriented areas. The notion that pedestrian and bike-friendly streets can not co-exist with the needs of light industry is simply not true. This has been demonstrated over and over again in cities all over America.

Creating paths for bicycles and pedestrians does not inhibit truck traffic or create hardships for industry. It makes the roads safer for everyone, whether they are walking, riding a bike, in car, or driving a truck. In the rare cases when an industrial concern might be adversely impacted by a specific multimodal design decision, I have full confidence that North Kansas City will be able to address and rectify these specific occurrences in a reasonable and equitable way, to satisfaction of everyone involved.

The Rabbit hOle came to North Kansas City precisely because of it's industrial character. The big beautiful industrial heart of North Kansas City, together with its burgeoning arts and entertainment sector, describe a new kind of opportunity

unavailable anywhere else in the Metro, and we intend to be a sustaining member in that partnership. The advantages of North Kansas City's evolution benefit everyone, including those in the manufacturing sector, as property values rise and North Kansas City becomes a destination and a source of pride both locally and regionally.

With hundreds of thousands of Rabbit hOle visitors coming down 14th Avenue every year, our commitment is to the safety of our guests, the prosperity and well-being of our neighbors, and the continued advancement of all the good things that are happening right now in North Kansas City.

With gratitude, respect, and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Cowdin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pete Cowdin  
Co-founder/Director  
The Rabbit hOle, 919 E. 14th Ave  
North Kansas City, MO 64116  
816-703-9539 (c)