



January 27, 2021

Mayor Quinton Lucas and
Members of the City Council
KCMO City Hall
414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

Environment Missouri wishes to submit the following letter in support of the proposed legislation to decriminalize walking and biking in Kansas City. Working to build a cleaner Show-Me State requires building a more equitable Show-Me State, and it starts with supporting policies like these.

To begin, we support this measure as a step to help limit the opportunities for over-policing of Black and Brown people in one of the largest cities in the state. The measures targeted in this legislation, including jaywalking, dirty tires, and bike inspection, do nothing to actually make the streets safer for people who walk and bike. It doesn't make sense for us to allow these measures to remain in place, especially if there is no evidence they protect the people who fall under their scope.

To look at this more broadly, we view this as a climate change issue. The recently published Climate Action Plan from the Mid-America Regional Council notes that transportation makes up 34% of our greenhouse gas emissions and stresses the importance of investing in multimodal alternatives to driving alone. Yet the fact remains that we can't ask Black and Brown travelers to opt for these modes if we don't also take the steps to ensure that they can safely use those modes without the threat of harassment from the police. Adopting this measure is one step we can take to begin to address those concerns.

In conclusion, Environment Missouri supports the adoption of this measure and asks the City Council to do the same.

Thank you,

Bridget Sanderson

Bridget Sanderson
State Director
Environment Missouri