TO: The City of Milwaukee Common Council Public Works Committee  
FROM: The Wisconsin Bike Fed, Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center & Black Girls Do Bike, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin  
Date: 9/12/2018  
RE: Support for the Milwaukee Complete Streets Policy

The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works, with input from residents and community leaders, has developed a Complete Streets policy that can improve health, safety, and mobility for the people of Milwaukee. We support the Complete Streets policy as it will make streets safer and support transportation options for all Milwaukee residents.

The Complete Streets Policy will increase safety and mobility by prioritizing people and help curb reckless driving. It will:

1. Ensure streets are designed for people and safety first  
2. Create a process for more robust community input on street design  
3. Ensure that the benefits of safe and complete streets are realized by all residents of the City

With local input, the Complete Streets policy dictates that streets are routinely designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, socioeconomic status, or mode of transportation.

Milwaukee has a commendable network for walking, biking, driving and public transit: a nearly complete sidewalk network, over 100 miles of traditional bike lanes, 3 streets with separated bike lanes, and over 60 miles of paved mixed use trails and peaceful parkways. However, we have a reckless driving and pedestrian safety problem with too many people being hit when crossing the street legally. The Complete Streets policy can have a positive impact on safety and access to these facilities for everyone, which can improve health, educational attainment, economic self-sufficiency, and the attractiveness of the City for residents, visitors, and businesses.

A resolution to pass a Complete Streets policy is just the start. In order to ensure that real change will occur, we are committed to building a culture of safety through community education, public awareness, and encouragement that prioritizes people and curbs reckless driving. We thank you for your time, look forward to engaging in this initiative, and encourage you to support this policy.

If you have questions, please contact Caressa Givens or Jessica Wineberg with the Wisconsin Bike Federation at caressa@wisconsinbikefed.org jessica@wisconsinbikefed.org (414) 378-2063