

Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Constituent Newsletter, 2nd April, 2017

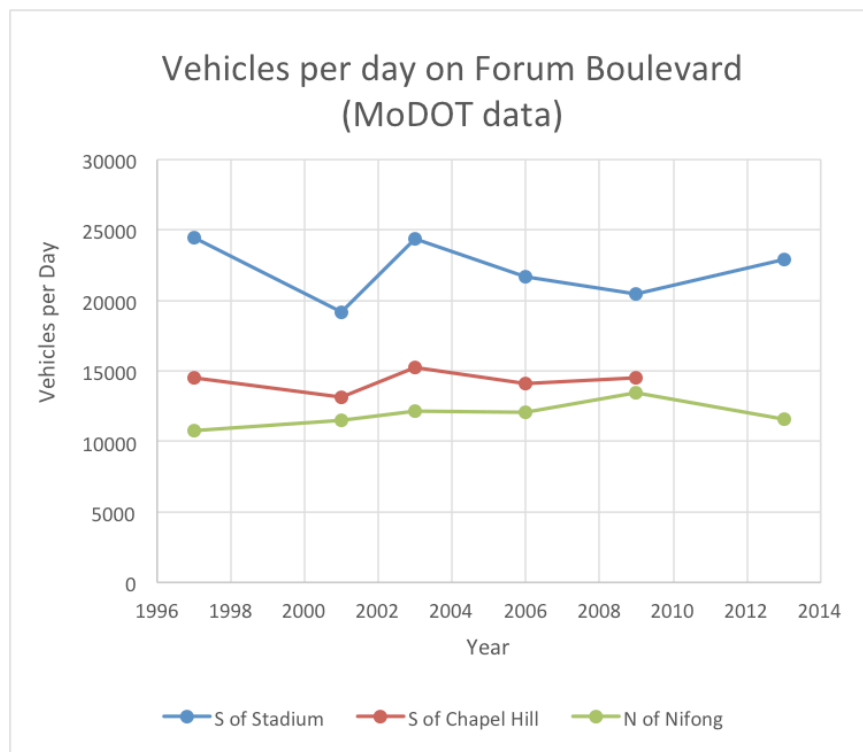
Dear _____:

As I have discussed previously (<http://www.ianfor4th.com/current-issues.html#captax>), I am strongly opposed to the City's plan to widen a 1-mile stretch of Forum Boulevard from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, at a cost to the taxpayer of \$12.7 million.

I know that many of you agree with me because, when I polled readers of this newsletter in 2015 (<http://www.ianfor4th.com/files/2015-Capital-Improvement-Sales-Tax-Question-Responses^Identifiers-Removed.pdf>), seventy-three (73) of you responded, of which 80% supported my position that we should trim back very expensive road expansion projects such as the four-laning of Forum, in order to develop a more efficient and economical transportation system.

This is a badly-conceived project for several reasons:

1. It's too expensive and will also create extra maintenance costs;
2. We have an enormous backlog of sidewalk and traffic calming projects that constituents are demanding to address safety and speeding in neighborhoods;
3. Forum does not have a congestion problem and, even if it did, it is well documented that adding lanes would not be an effective strategy;
4. Americans are driving less and MoDOT data show no increase in traffic on Forum over the last 20 years.



Not only is it clear that there is no growth in traffic on Forum over the last two decades, the actual numbers do not come close to warranting four travel lanes. A rule of thumb for traffic engineers is that a single lane can comfortably accommodate at least 18,000 vehicles per day. Referring to the chart above:

- The location just south of Stadium handles fewer than 12,000 vehicles per day in each direction - far below the 36,000 vehicle capacity of the existing two lanes in each direction;
- The two locations at either end of the section that is proposed to be widened receive no more than 7,500 vehicles per day in each direction - again far below the 18,000 capacity of a single lane in each direction.

In fact, the section between Green Meadows and Woodrail is currently (and unnecessarily) four lanes, creating a great opportunity to increase safety and encourage more people to commute by bicycle from south-west Columbia. Recent experience in other cities has shown that:

- Protected bike lanes (<https://momentummag.com/the-rise-of-the-north-american-protected-bike-lane/>) are much safer than painted ones, and lead to large increases in bicycle commuting;
- Cities can install temporary demonstration projects (<https://www.cnu.org/publicsquare/2017/02/16/great-idea-tactical-urbanism>) that are inexpensive and can be easily reversed if they do not work.



For very little cost we could re-purpose the right lane (northbound and southbound) between Green Meadows and Woodrail as a temporary protected bike lane demonstration project. This would not hinder traffic at all because the remaining lane can easily accommodate the 7,500 vehicles/day in each direction. With the wider lanes south of Green Meadows, it would create a high-quality bicycle connection from Nifong to Woodrail, where the protected bike lanes could safely flow onto the bicycle shoulders going down the hill, over the new bicycle/pedestrian bridge and connect to the MKT Trail.

I think we should give this a try for 6 months, along with careful evaluation of traffic counts, bicycle and pedestrian counts, and public opinion. Please let me know what you think!

Cheers, Ian

Constituent Responses

Summary:

In favor of protected bike lanes and/or cancelling widening project:	55/95 = 58%
Against protected bike lanes and/or cancelling widening project:	33/95 = 35%
Neutral or balanced:	7/95 = 7%

Individual Responses:

On 4/2/17, 2:05 PM, wrote:

THIS IS ESPECIALLY A VERY STUPID IDEA. THERE IS NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO WAY THAT YOU SHOULD DO THIS. THERE SHOULD NOT BE BIKERS ON STADIUM ALSO,. NO LIGHTS, NO JACKETS AND NOT WATCHING THE REGULAR TRAFFIC. THEY NEED TO TAKE CLASSES ON RIDING BIKES IN DANGEROUS PLACES. I will send this information to others that I know in the area to be sure and tell them no to have the bike lanes.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:08 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

BRAVO ! BRAVISSIMO ! thoughtful well argued, well reasoned, well planned !

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:11 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Brilliant plan and exposition of it!

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:14 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thank you. I do agree with all your points in this newsletter!

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:15 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian, As usual, you are on the right track. Here's to comprehensive anticipatory design science.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:50 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

As always, thanks for your email to us constituents. I strongly agree about no 4-lane widening on Forum Blvd. I do drive that route regularly and the existing roads seem to do the job nicely.

I seem to recall at an earlier date, you were supporting a round-a-bout at Forum and Green Meadows. My first reaction was, 'no' but I now believe the idea has merit, e.g., the stop and go use of time as well as gasoline with the 4-way during peak afternoon (about 4:30 - 6:00 pm) and early morning traffic (about 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.) But I'm also content with the 4-way stop, as my experience at that intersection is that everyone is quite careful and courteous. Thanks again for your excellent representation of fourth ward.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 2:51 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thank you for continuing to keep residents informed. I don't recall details in prior information about Forum Drive widening from 2 lanes to 4 lanes. However, I disagree with disposing of any plan to widen that area. I drive through that area several times a week, if not daily, often at times where traffic gets backed up at the Green Meadows/Forum intersection. Having extra lanes at that intersection greatly facilitates keeping traffic flowing, especially when cars are turning left at the same time cars in the right lane are moving forward. Perhaps the traffic count doesn't indicate a need for convenience and/or relieving congestion, but it does relieve stress when a driver is several cars back, waiting for a turn at the 4-way stop. Taking away part of the two lanes for a protected bike lane does not seem necessary....I can't recall the last time I even saw a biker in that area. In addition, the area over the bridge by Wilson's remains a potential hazard, both with its reduced bridge lane size and limited visibility of traffic coming from the South. Again, perhaps the traffic count doesn't show it, but it doesn't include near misses of accidents. One could surmise that a large portion of traffic going South from Stadium then turns West on Chapel Hill to avoid the bottleneck through the bridge, accounting for the reduction in that area's Vehicles per Day on Forum. I'm all for studies and statistics but they often don't show the whole picture. Thanks for "listening."

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On 4/2/17, 2:59 PM, wrote:

I certainly support the idea of trying a protected bike lane for the stretch of Forum between Green Meadows and Nifong. On a related note, is there any possibility of protecting the stretch of new bike lane going down the hill toward Wilsons? While it's nice to have a bike lane it's still essentially the shoulder of the road. Given how much the road winds, I still feel very exposed going down the hill when I can't see the cars behind me.
Thanks,

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:00 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Your reasoning makes sense to me and my wife, Peggy. Keep up the good work.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:15 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I think the vehicular traffic on the aforementioned section of Forum Blvd could be better served by restricting left turns during high traffic hours. The vehicles turning left into and out of Wilson's cause the highest potential for casualties and cause greatest slow down of the traffic heading south on Forum from Chapel Hill especially during the evening rush hour. The current way the engineers marked the turn lanes in that area has never made sense. Perhaps, we should look for a new group of city engineers who actually spends time on the roads. We want them to consider safety and traffic trends before they make recommendations that are not supported by the data or the taxpayers.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:38 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Agreed. Four lanes on Forum is f... ing insane!

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:40 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree, will fwd to friends.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:43 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

We do not support this project Ian.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:43 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I completely that agree that Forum Blvd does not need to be widened. I travel that corridor several times a week at different hours of the day and have observed no capacity problems. Fine with me to conduct the trial adding dedicated bike lanes. On a really busy day, that might add all of about 30 seconds to my trip. (A side benefit is that this change would make the 4-way stop on that stretch safer and easier to navigate because it would be clearer whose turn it is to go next.) In addition, the area proposed for widening is a beautiful stretch. It lifts my spirits every time I pass through it.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3:43 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I definitely support protected bike lines - too many inattentive drivers!

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:00 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I appreciate your newsletters even though I am in Ward 5, they are still appreciated! I feel like there is some conflicting reporting on the topic of Forum Blvd. which I hope you can clear up. I first learned that the traffic at Forum and Green Meadows was a topic of interest from the recent article in the Missourian, http://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/road-diet-seen-as-solution-to-safety-traffic-on-forum/article_9c93a51a-0437-11e7-94c1-ffee3afdaf0c.html. I was surprised that this stretch of road is once again a topic of discussion including a roundabout, when constituents in Ward 5, as well as the City Council voted against it in Sept. of last year. http://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/local/road-diet-seen-as-solution-to-safety-traffic-on-forum/article_9c93a51a-0437-11e7-94c1-ffee3afdaf0c.html Who initiated this area of Forum as a topic of discussion again and why?

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:01 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I completely agree with your position on Forum. The only issue of which I have heard is congestion near Wilson's around rush hour.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:02 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Go for it..I'm with ya

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:08 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

First of all, thank you for the information. As a recent transplant from the east coast, Columbia traffic is a bit of a mystery. I have been informed that the state dictates speed limits on some roads in town. High speed traffic should be relegated to I-70 and 63. Build a loop around the city and drive like a madman on that. In town, two lanes with a turning lane (with plantings and other traffic calming devices) should be the rule. This leaves room for bike lanes. My vision, anyway.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:29 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,
I agree. The 4-lane stretch from Green Meadows to Woodrail just encourages going faster than 35 and passing at the last moment. Especially in north-bound traffic, I often am passed by motorists using the left turn lane as a passing lane. And that's when I'm motoring, going 37. I like the idea of trying a temporary change, gather lots of data, and then decide.
Thanks

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 4:29 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I think bike lanes are very feel-good for those who can "afford" to use them, but 9 to 5 working people need faster and better ways to get to work which, for good or bad, means cars and reducing drive times. Some food for thought:http://www.tpg1.com/protest/city/nobike/van_bikelanesbad.htm
Thanks.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 5:17 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I am for widening Forum Blvd to 4 lanes. At present there is a bottleneck where it goes from 4 lanes to 2. Columbia always seems to wait until too late to widen roads. We also need to install more round-a-bouts. They are a very efficient way to move traffic thru intersections. How about a round-a-bout at Forum and Nifong?? I will meet for coffee but not on Easter Sunday. That is family time. Thanks for your work,

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 5:26 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thanks for keeping me in the loop, Ian. I wholeheartedly agree with #2. I just listed a home that will be coming on the market soon off I-70 S drive. There are several subdivisions off this road and there are no shoulders. Also, so many of our roads (all over town in every price range and area) are so hard to see at night. Reflective paint and better lighting is sorely needed. I love my bike and do ride it often in the spring and summer; however, I would very much like to see shoulders on all roads in Columbia, reflective paint and well marked roads and better lighting -- and then after that is complete -- more bike lanes. I appreciate your vision for less driving & more economical transit - - I just want to see better roads for driving first. :-)

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 5:40 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thanks, Ian. I agree with you on not spending the \$12 plus million to make Forum four lanes. If any street needs extra lanes it has to be Niphong! Especially after adding a huge senior citizen center, a new Boone Hospital annex, and already having Mill Creek Elementary school that empties onto the street. Stop lights, if not more lanes, should be considered to keep traffic moving!
Thanks for your email.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:08 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian...re Forum Blvd. I could not agree more.
What an extravagant amount to address an issue of what...congestion?...which quite honestly, I do not think exists. So to what purpose?...to expedite the evolution of even higher speed auto travel (most travel is well above the posted speed limit on the road already in my experience), so that the same few folks can shave a minute off their commute time. What a waste.
Good fortune to you in on promoting your alt suggestion. I am ever hopeful that folks will walk more, bike more, motorbike more; I am however, rather sanguine about the possibility as long as gas is cheap and lightly taxed.
As ever, thanks for all that you do.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:13 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

The tax payers voted in favor of this expansion and it is greatly needed because Forum becomes very congested. We approved this initiative and I don't appreciate the fact that now you are leading a charge to disregard our vote. More bike lanes will not result in fewer cars on Forum. It is very congested and making more space for bikes will worsen the situation. When Mike Mathes spoke to our rotary club two weeks ago and was asked about this, many of the 50 or more attendees were shocked that the Council would even entertain the notion of disregarding our vote for their own agenda. I urge you to respect the majority vote. Thank you.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:25 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,
I think "repurposing" one of the two traffic lanes on Nifong is a really bad idea and please do not spend my tax dollars and the council's time on this. Spending \$1 Million for the bike bridge to nowhere at Wilson's that nobody is ever seen on is enough of a dumb waste of our money for the few bikers in Columbia.
Thanks.

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Reply-To: Fred Tonnie <fred.tonnies@yahoo.com>
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:37 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian

I guess we will agree to disagree on a lot of issues.
I would rather have the 4 lane road than spend ANY money on buses or bike lanes.
This is not Europe, and stop trying to make us like that. We are expanding out of the core of the city.
Yes I understand that you love bikes and ride them all of the time. I do not and do not intend to do so. I envy people that do but I am not willing to underwrite their existence from my tax dollars.
Your special bike path will cost dollars to maintain that as well
If you have not noticed the money coming into the city as revenue is not going up. The internet has hurt it a lot and we need to search for ways to increase revenue.
If we get money with no strings attached, then ok use it.

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On 4/2/17, 6:45 PM, wrote:

Ian,
you could use the money earmarked for the Shepard to Rollins Option 1 to build these protected lanes and save money since easements and legal fees associated with obtaining easements would not be involved. The Shepard to Rollins project is not proper use of the funds involved since it is not to be used on recreational trails, but protected bike and wheelchair lanes would be considered a transportation use.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6:56 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

If there's money to spend on streets, I would rather see it spent on repair of those rough patches on West Broadway rather than extending that stretch on Forum Blvd.
Your proposal of protected bike lanes on Forum is worth trying, at least for six months.
So many decisions to make !
Thanks for reaching out to your constituents.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 7:03 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thank you for your efforts.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 7:41 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian:

Your chart is interesting. The impact of the Boone Hospital Center may increase traffic a little. But the closure of the MU Health Offices on Green Meadows may offset those changes. All-in-all, the traffic in this portion of Columbia is not likely to change much.

You are attempting changes that I tried and had very little success at such as repairing sidewalks (my favorite was trying to get those along Broadway and West Boulevard repaired). We were just a little more successful in requiring new sidewalks and a few speed breakers. With the decline in federal earmarks and tight budgets, bicycle paths are going to be a tough sell for financing at either the state or federal levels.

Hang in there. I think your head is in the right direction.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 8:21 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

You are spot on regarding Forum, Ian. Excellent presentation and supporting documents regarding the number of vehicles using that area. You always do in-depth research.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 8:48 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian!

I think having the demonstration project on Forum is a great idea, and especially given all that you describe in your email, I don't think it's necessary to widen Forum.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 8:58 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I love any idea that will improve the bike-ability of Columbia. I absolutely agree that protected lanes will make riders feel safer. I hope the location is such that it will show increased bike ridership. The amount of increase in ridership probably won't matter to the nay-sayers unless it is fairly dramatic. Thank you very much for championing this idea.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 9:28 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thank you for your well thought out proposals and all the time you put into representing us on the city council. Put me down for "agree" for all of them. There is so much to be done to improve public transportation and safe bike routes.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 9:32 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Narrowing the road is even worse than widening it. Tho clearly you've made up your mind.

+++++

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 9:44 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi,
I don't like Forum to be 4 lines.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 10:07 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian,
Thanks for the newsletter. I am very much in agreement with your remarks concerning Forum Blvd., and in particular I support your proposal to create a protected bike lane.

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Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 11:14 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian. Green Meadows and Forum will be much worse off if two lanes are closed for 4-5 commuting bikers per day. Due to the size of the hill between the MKT and Green Meadows, I doubt many folks will even choose to commute on bikes on this route no matter how much room or full lanes they had.
There certainly is a traffic problem at Green Meadows and Forum. All four lanes are there because the PEAK rate of cars exceeds the road capacity between 4:30-6pm. Have you observed this? The total number of cars isn't the issue as most of the day the lanes are redundant. Closing two lanes for bikes would compound the traffic issue during peak time. This would upset far more constituents than you would please. Bikers don't outnumber drivers.

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On 4/3/17, 6:02 AM, wrote:

Hi Ian,

I really like the idea of the bike lanes on Forum. My concern is that 6 months is not long enough to get people out and comfortable using them.

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On 4/3/17, 7:18 AM, wrote:

Dear Ian,

I agree with you that the road project is too expensive. I'm concerned that re-purposing some of the current lanes for bike use may be very unpopular, though. I agree that there is a need to increase bike safety on the stretch of Forum that goes south of Wilson's. I have friends that live off of Green Meadows that will not bike to Wilson's because of how dangerous that hill is. Do you have any idea on what the cost would be to compromise, and instead of adding lanes for cars, add bike lanes for that 1 mile stretch? I have no idea how much this might cut the cost, if at all, but it would keep everyone happy I think.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:26 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree with you about Forum. I travel forum at mid day and there is little traffic. There is a bottle neck where Forum meets Stadium; that could be addressed, but it would mean businesses giving up some parking space (but only a little).

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:50 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,

I love the idea of trying the dedicated bike lane for 6 months.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:53 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree. In fact, I listened to a TED Talk and the expert stated that people drive faster on wider lanes. He said that traffic flow is better if lanes are reduced and bicycle and sidewalks are added. Adding trees on the side of the road slows traffic down as well. Columbia is horrible for wanting wider and more lanes. We need more walk-ability and less infrastructure for cars.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 8:23 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian

I just want to let you know that I disagree with you 100% on this. Forum is very busy in that area, and needs 4 lanes. Adding bike lanes is not going to reduce this traffic. Autos are going to always be the main form of transportation.

I wish that you would do something. Have a study to see how many passenger miles are done in the city by cars/trucks etc, and then how many passenger miles are done on bikes. Compare these two figures, and that is where the starting point should be for city money to be spent on roads and bike trails.

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Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 8:41 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,

How many bikes per day use this stretch of roadway??? I drive it daily and it is rare to see a biker. As an aside, I also bike and use Forum regularly when I do so. I have never had a problem while biking on Forum in this very stretch of road nor have I heard anyone else who bikes complain about it.

I and other residents of the area would welcome the opportunity to discuss this idea further with you and give you actual feedback from persons who actually live in the neighborhood and use this stretch of road on a daily basis. It seems apparent to me from your email below you do not drive on Forum yourself and have no idea what traffic is actually like on this stretch of roadway especially in the morning and evening rush hours. It also seems you have no idea that if your proposal were tried the CPS buses, City buses, and fire trucks and police cars would have no way to use this stretch of road and would be stuck in traffic. Have you spoken with any of those agencies about your idea?

How about we set up a meeting in our neighborhood for you to come talk to us and get actual input from residents before you go any further with this idea? One resident contacted me yesterday and said "If Mr. Thomas thinks a road diet is such a good idea why doesn't he try it first in his own neighborhood on West Broadway? Another resident asked "Didn't Ian vote for the road improvements on West Broadway?" Good questions and I would like your responses so I can share with the neighbors who asked.

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Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 8:41 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Forum expansion

Hi Ian,

Thank you for your well thought out argument against the Forum expansion. I heartily agree. In addition to your points about the lack of need for such an expensive project, I would be concerned about speed issues. I would guess (although, I have to admit, I have no evidence) that wider lanes and multiple lanes give the impression to a driver that allowable speeds are higher. Even if the speed limit stayed the same, I would be concerned that drivers would have the tendency to increase their speed.

I would be in support of your alternate proposal for a protected bike lane. To be honest though, my only concern is that that addition may "weaken" your argument. If one of your main points is that the money is better spent on the backlog of other traffic requests, then it may not be best to add to the list. Just a thought – you know better how our city government works than I do!

If, however, you DO go in the direction of protected bike lanes, I would love to see one between the new bike lane (on the outer curve of the hill) and oncoming traffic. I know I feel pretty exposed using that as traffic comes so quickly down that hill.

Don't you like how I tell you that you're asking for too much, and then I ask for more? ;)

Thanks for all your work, Ian, you're doing great!!

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 8:58 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,

As a 5th ward resident, I agree 1000% with your assessment of Forum and I like your suggested experiment.

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On 4/3/17, 9:17 AM, wrote:

Ian,

I totally agree with you. Another aspect you don't mention is that the bike lane situation both north and south of the proposed "improvement" is not very good or safe, so this doesn't really accomplish much.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 9:34 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

As your constituent, I oppose your efforts to place a protected bike lane on this stretch of roadway.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:03 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thanks Ian. I agree with you.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:35 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thanks for this, Ian. Regarding Forum, has there been much talk about the entrance to Wilson's? I work out at Wilson's often 5 days a week. The north-bound left turn lane is iffy, because southbound traffic has to veer right in an unexpected fashion, and they hit what was the shoulder of the road southbound just before they cross the bridge. Basically, they veer into uneven pavement where pothole form pretty regularly. I'm not sure the north-bound turn lane was a good idea. I am also not sure that anyone should be turning left out of Wilson's, across Forum traffic. Overall, your analysis makes it clear that we should not widen Forum. I support the bike lake idea. Wilson's entrance remains an issue ... I'd say just do not allow a left turn into Wilson's from Forum going north bound, but then people are going to U-turn on Forum at the top of the hill ... maybe that would be oaky Maybe a U-turn could be installed on Forum south-bound so people could turn right out of Wilson's, then come back north-bound after making a U-turn

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:52 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree with you. Hold their feet to the fire. My family has your back. Thank you for standing up for the count.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 10:59 AM
Cc: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>,
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian: I am GREATLY concerned about your proposal to subject Forum from Woodrail to Green Meadows to a "Road Diet". I live on Woodrail Terrace and drive that stretch daily (sometimes several times) (and no, biking or public transit are NOT options for me). I STRONGLY encourage the council to pursue the wishes of the voters - who overwhelmingly approved money to expand Forum to 4 lanes - because that is what makes sense. I do not agree with your assertion that the

traffic counts have not grown in 20 years, particularly peak traffic flow, and I note that your last data point is 2013 (so it is at least 4 years old if not older). I'm all in favor of biking and the trail systems - but we cannot force our population onto bikes and into public transportation by making existing 4 lane roads that handle thousands of cars a day into 2 lanes (perhaps to the benefit of maybe a few hundred bikes a day - at best on a nice day for biking). Safety of the many (car drivers) should be the paramount consideration.

In addition, I see no consideration or involvement from businesses along that stretch and what traffic snarls would do to them. I also see no consideration of peak flow backup between Nifong and Green Meadows. I think a detailed look at this will show a strong potential for a Peak Flow backup that clogs that entire stretch of road. I also see no consideration for emergency vehicle access to or through this area if the anticipated back-up does occur. Has anyone consulted CPD, CFD, or BHC or MU Ambulance services about this plan?

I implore you to abandon this idea that is not even in your ward. The people of the 5th ward do NOT want Forum narrowed, but rather to be widened to 4 lanes for its entire length as originally planned and approved by the voters. If an experiment is needed to see if bike riders really would use that stretch, I would encourage narrowing the medians sufficiently to allow a bike lane in each direction and see what that does. I would suggest that it will probably not increase bike ridership any significant degree - and having bike lanes available will give the public a choice of riding their bikes or using their cars. I do believe in choice. I also believe we should be improving the flow of traffic on this major loop, not restricting it to the detriment of the many households that depend on that route daily.

I, too, would welcome an opportunity to discuss this proposal, and my opposition to it, with you.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 11:11 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian,

I think there is more to it than the average daily traffic on Forum. It is the traffic during rush hours that is important because that is when the congestion happens. Forum is a major artery for people in the Southwest to get to Stadium and then to shopping or work. I would think two lanes each way would help significantly, especially for people going to/from work.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 11:42 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree about your ideas for forum.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 11:53 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian, I agree with you that this construction is not needed. However, the existing four lanes do seem to be necessary for heavy traffic times. What Forum does need is a traffic light at Green Meadows. When is that going to happen? The roundabout has been taken out of the plans, but we need a traffic light.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 12:24 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I whole heartedly support your idea about converting part of Forum Blvd. to protected bike lanes. I like your way of thinking on this.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 2:24 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ward4@como.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian you hit it right on the head, the Forum expansion is a terrible idea for all the reasons you state. I LOVE the bike lane idea! Thank you! And of course I support anything that will make COMO transit better for all of us. Thank you as always for what you do for all of us. Best regards,

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 2:37 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Dear Ian, We agree with you in NOT supporting a widening of Forum Boulevard for all the reasons you have listed. And we totally support a Protected Bike Lane 6 month demonstration project on Forum Boulevard. What a great way to encourage bike commuting from the south parts of town since it will feed into the MKT trail!

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 2:49 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Brilliant, Ian. I'm gonna respond in more detail from my computer.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 4:52 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

I agree with you

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 5:12 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Really appreciate the thoughtful, data-supported analysis. It's one of the many reasons you make such a wonderful part of our city council. Given the empirical "lack of need", I wonder what's driving the push to spend the money in this way? Whatever the reason (lining someone's pockets?), I support your lack of support! Thank you for your dedication to Columbia. Seriously.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 9:02 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian, I am not in favor of widening a 1 mile stretch of Forum lanes from 2 to 4 lanes, HOWEVER, you should also know that I am absolutely opposed to taking one of the existing lanes each way and turning it into a bike lane. My husband and I travel Forum almost every single day and we hardly ever see even one bicycle. I know you would like for everyone to ride bikes to work each day. This is simply not going to happen. Please stop pushing the bicycle agenda in Columbia. Most are not in favor of it like you may think they are. There are other issues surrounding Columbians that could use your attention. Thank you for what you do on the City Council, donating your time. Please work for all Columbians, not just the bicyclists.

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:29 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Dear Mr. Thomas

I drive this road at least 4 times a day at various times of the day. During high traffic and low traffic periods. In the last month, I there has not been more than a total of 12 bikes during that entire time. I see more walkers on the side walkers than bikers. During heavy traffic both lanes are heavily used which facilitates ease of turning of the hundreds of drivers that live both east and west of Forum.

My conclusion is based on your reasoning that Forum does NOT need to be widened . It follows that there is NOT enough bike traffic to eliminate a driving lane on Forum north of Green

Meadows. Furthermore, why would anyone want MORE bikes on a major collector. Greatly increases chance for more biker casualties. Nest, will you be asking to put bike lanes on Providence Rd to encourage everyone to bike to work. Imagine 20,000 bikers on Providence going to work and coming home. Shouldn't add more than 2-3 hours to your commute each way---talk about the accidents and road rage!!! What about all the commercial trucks carrying supplies to all the stores all over town trying to get through all the commuting bikers if you have your ideal car free Columbia. Or will then have to have delivery lanes accessible only to service vehicles. When will it end???? When we all live in a high rise building that has all our needed services and employment contained within. To date, I have not heard of any petitions by a majority of residents in the 5th Ward requesting such a change. This effort looks more like ideological reasoning trying to impose unsolicited lifestyle choices on the majority. Respectfully Mr. Thomas, PLEASE, let the residents of the 5th Ward decide if WE HAVE A PROBLEM, before you try to impose an UNWANTED SOLUTION. Have you solved all the problems in the 4th Ward?

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 2:39 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Dear Ian,
Hope you are well. I fully support you in this. Please let me know if you need any groundwork done. Thanks

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 3:11 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

This was a very informative email; thanks! I have completed the Community Development Needs survey. Also, I wholeheartedly support your proposal for protected bike lanes along a stretch of Forum Boulevard.

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:55 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Thanks for the clear statement if your understanding of expansion on Forum. It is a demonstrable fact that road expansion increases traffic, as you point out. On this case, the high cost is an additional reason to oppose this idea.
Thanks again.

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 8:11 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

As always, thank you for asking! I appreciate how you consistently and actively seek feedback. I credit you with canceling city plans for the roundabout planned for Chapel Hill and Fairview, by the way -- I thought for sure the City was determined to get that done. I consider you the best sort of representative, that is, you provide fact-based analyses at the same time you ask what your constituents think. Both are important. Your email is a great example. To be perfectly honest, when I first read your email, my reaction was, "well of course we need to widen Forum to 4 lanes in that section, traffic must be increasing, and the 4 lanes funneled to two at Green Meadows is a bottleneck". In my defense, at first I read "12.7 million" as "1.27 million"! The point is, I had no idea traffic had not increased in 20 years, and that the traffic on Forum was well below design capacity. Of course I came by that honestly, I'm not a city engineer... what's their excuse? Also, as I thought about it, widening Forum would just move any traffic backups along that road further down to the next bottleneck, the Nifong intersection. In any case, now that I've read the facts, and considering the proposed \$12.7 million for a project with little if any payback, I completely support your alternate plan. I especially like the idea of dropping 4 lanes down to 2 as a temporary demonstration project -- not only does that simplify the Green Meadows intersection, it will allow for a protected bike lane, the only type of lane I feel is safe for city streets. Thank you for your careful thought and analysis regarding these and other issues!

+++++

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 8:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

All,
Just wanted to share this email information with the neighborhood from Ian Thomas. In the past month, I have seen, maybe, 2 bicycles on Forum. I found it interesting that a 2 lane/1 lane roundabout was needed to improve traffic flow. Because, there were so many cars during peak hours. Thankfully, the City Council listened to the Neighborhood and we will not have a dangerous roundabout. Now, based on the enclosed email below, the traffic flow is low, so we only need 1 lane on Forum Blvd? So, let's limit the lanes and have a lane for bicycles. Does this make sense? How will left/right turns be handled? Should city tax money be spent for this study? Hopefully, our new 5th Ward Council person will determine this study as costly, a waste of time and an inconvenience to all the drivers on Forum Blvd.

+++++

On 4/5/17, 7:39 AM, wrote:

While I completely disagree with you on the traffic on Forum, and by extension the MoDot study, I find no value in arguing with the city or its representatives. In the past when I have offered real solutions to real problems I am summarily dismissed or derided and have little time for either. I will however take issue with the assertion that there is no traffic issue at the Green Meadows/Forum intersection. I know this first hand as I drove through the intersection for a year every day between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. It usually was backed up to nearly the four-lane end near Chapel Hill. I sought alternatives routes that were much longer but much faster. I know the City has already decided to narrow the road and add the city loved solution of yet another unnecessary roundabout So I will not argue further.

+++++

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 8:28 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Forum fiasco

How about you stick your bike lane on forum where the sun doesn't shine?
Super bad idea!
Go back and take care of your 4th ward, and stay out of the 5th ward.
?

+++++

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 10:18 AM
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

How about a "LEAVE FORUM ALONE" group?! Dot

+++++

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 11:33 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian! I agree with you about not needing or wanting to widen Forum. In fact, I thought there was talk of narrowing Forum, from 4 lanes to 2 lanes, between Woodrail and Green Meadows. I would be in favor of that. I would also be in favor of putting a roundabout at Forum and Green Meadows. It would be WONDERFUL to put in protected bike lanes!!!

+++++

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 12:15 PM
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Seems to me this falls under - "If it isn't broke don't fix it."
Or maybe to paraphrase Mark Twain, "Imagine I'm a Columbia City Councilman from the Fourth Ward, now imagine I'm an idiot, but I repeat myself."
Hopefully our new Councilman will strongly oppose this very, very bad idea!!

+++++

On 4/6/17, 7:43 AM, wrote:

That the dumbest idea I have herd of you need to focus on spending my money in a more responsible manner

+++++

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 2:21 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Great initiative, Ian. Thanks for thinking about the quality of life in our community. I'm all for protected bike lanes which, as I'm sure you know, have radically transformed the way people live and connect in many cities around the world (e.g. Copenhagen which now has more bikes than cars).
Best,

+++++

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 2:45 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hi Ian,
I totally agree with you about the Forum Blvd widening. I feel like it is benefiting a few private businesses more than the community at large and with a substantial price tag.

+++++

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: April 6th, 2017 at 11:08PM (CDT).

Comments: I do not support your proposal to close a lane of Forum Blvd. Traffic is consistently backed up during peak driving times. In my opinion there are not enough bicyclists to warrant a closure of any lane of any existing roadway in our city, let only any part of Forum.
As a resident of Ward 5, I ask that you withdraw this proposal.

+++++

Date: Friday, April 7, 2017 at 11:04 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Mr. Thomas:

Are you representing the people in your ward or are you trying to get the people in your ward to agree with your views and how you want to vote?

I also have a survey. Heck it is just as good as yours and it says the opposite. Please do not use your subjective survey as if it is fact. It is not.

Now this may be a surprise -- I am one of your constituents, and I do not plan to ride a bicycle again the rest of my life. I do not want roads with bicycle lanes.

This your wish that Forum has one lane devoted to bicycles. Start representing the majority of people in your ward not the vocal few you know agree with you.

+++++

Date: Friday, April 7, 2017 at 11:05 AM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: Re: FW: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

As always, thank you for keeping me in the loop! I've read your newsletter and your responses to Mr. Ehrhardt and think they're extremely reasonable. As you know I consider myself an "advanced" cyclist yet consider riding on that stretch of Forum to be one of the scariest neighborhood roads to ride on in Columbia. I completely agree that very few people ride their bikes on that stretch of Forum. I would say the same for the number of people walking. However, those low numbers are justified when you consider that that section of Forum is unnecessarily designed as a highway and even more unfortunate when you consider it runs through a neighborhood where people should feel safe getting out to walk or bike.

I ride this stretch of Forum (southbound) about once a week and always during peak afternoon traffic (~5:15pm). When I ride it I always wonder why it's four lane particularly when compared to what seems to be a relatively low traffic volume. However it seems that the multiple wide lanes, giving a sense that one is on a highway, encourages unsafe driving behavior particularly speeding and dangerous passing maneuvers. Further, my observations conclude that the "delay" that many speak of has more to do with the intersection design at Forum and Green Meadows causing a bottleneck than the roadway itself.

I recognize that everyone looks through a different lens when observing an issue and have great respect for and see the value in understanding different perspectives. That being said, I think it's important to make data driven decisions that take into account different perspectives. That's why I'm very impressed with your analysis of the data and think it's a worthy endeavor to conduct a well-designed demonstration project. In this demonstration project we will be able to see how the the four lanes may be more than needed, that people may feel safer to get out and enjoy their neighborhood through walking and biking, and how a protected bike lane can be incorporated and still allow for busses and first responders to efficiently do their jobs.

In my opinion, this is not a bike amenity demonstration. This is a neighborhood improvement demonstration, the protected bike lane is just a tool. I think what we all need to decide is whether we want to live in a neighborhood with a high speed travel corridor running through it (think providence or Scott Blvd) or in a neighborhood that has a main road that is safe for children and elderly neighbors to walk and bike along.

+++++

On 4/7/17, 12:44 PM, wrote:

Ian, I am in favor of conversion to four lanes on Forum from Green Meadows to Nifong. I am against trial bike lane or permanent bike lane at this point. Forum is a traffic mess at busy times of day with large vehicle back-up lines. If anything is to be done, it should be to widen Forum to 4 lanes from Green Meadows to Nifong. Thanks,

+++++

Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 at 9:41 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Protected Bike Lanes

I totally agree the city does NOT need to widen Forum from Chapel Hill to Woodrail. The city could spend this 12 million dollars to speed up the traffic calming project list and other pedestrian safety projects. This would go along with the Vision Zero plan. Now, all you have to do is convince the other city council members to support your 6 month demonstration project.

+++++

Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:22 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ward4@como.gov>, "ward5@como.gov" <ward5@como.gov>
Subject: Forum Blvd

I want to let you know I support the idea of decreasing that one little section of Forum Blvd down from two lanes to one lane (the area just north of Green Meadows). Having two lanes there causes a lot of problems as people try to pass each other. Not to mention that it does make it unsafe for bike riders. I have personally experienced cars coming fairly close to me there, so I often go on the sidewalk or cut through that neighborhood to the west with all the duplexes. But to really make this work, we need a roundabout at Forum and Green Meadows! That was one of the best ideas the city road staff has come up with and I can't believe that this was voted down. Just a couple weeks ago there was another accident there and I've seen plenty of close calls.

+++++

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: April 11th, 2017 at 09:43AM (CDT).

Comments: Ian, after reading your comments in today's Tribune, you obviously do not travel Forum Blvd., The congestion is only getting worse. I ask that you COMPLETELY ABANDON your ideas of "bike/pedestrian" lanes and support the building of Forum Blvd. as was previously approved by the Citizens and the City of Columbia. Thank You.

+++++

On 4/11/17, 11:25 AM, wrote:

I am writing to voice my opposition to changing Forum Blvd. This street is a major north south thoroughfare for our city, it was voted on to improve this major artery to four lanes. Let's not, as a city and as a tax payer, waste money taking away the four lane portion next to the country club, so you and a very few may have a "bike lane". What a completely ridiculous idea! If you and your biker buds want to have a bike lane, then fund it or propose it for a vote, not take away existing vehicle roadways!

+++++

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 1:41 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Fwd: How Memphis built a better bike lane (and how your city can too)

Hello Ian,
I am fairly certain you receive the Strong Towns emails, but thought this applied to the Forum Blvd discussion.
Wishing you all the best!

+++++

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: April 11th, 2017 at 06:40PM (CDT).

Comments: Mr. Thomas, please add the above email address to your fourth Ward constituents list We were never surveyed by you in 2015, as described in the Tribune article, and we definitely do not support your position on changing the forum Boulevard road expansion to accommodate bikers.

+++++

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: April 12th, 2017 at 06:40PM (CDT).

Comments: Mr. Thomas, I heard you on the news and read the newspaper regards your idea to make one lane of Forum Blvd each way a bike lane, reducing one of the most heavily traveled roads in the City from four to two lanes as applicable. I wanted to express to you my perspective, hoping you drop the idea. Forum is a major north/south roadway and the four lane portions are often packed with cars. Reducing an already heavily used roadway by hundreds of motorized vehicles each day to accommodate a handful of bicycle riders (a dozen, two dozen?) makes no sense. I ask that you address more important areas of bike and walker safety such as reinstalling emergency telephones on the city trail system, more/better lighting in the trail parking lots, or something that would positively impact everyone, not negatively affect a particular group. Should this matter come for public comment at the Council meeting, I intend to rally support and speak against the idea. I do thank you for bringing your ideas up for discussion with your constituents. best regards.

+++++

Below are the results of a Web form submitted on: April 14th, 2017 at 02:53PM (CDT).

Comments: I read the articles in the Missourian and Tribune about the "road diet" for forum blvd that you proposed. You suggest that there isn't much traffic on forum in this stretch. As a neighbor said, and I concur, "are you kidding???" I live in the lake woodrail subdivision which accesses forum from crestwood. To my knowledge, neither our subdivision nor the woodrail subdivision directly across forum was consulted before this suggestion. This is a BUSY intersection. It is hard and dangerous for a vehicle to go left (south)on forum from crestwood. Ditto for the woodrail group to go left (north). Imagine what it would be like if there was only one lane going each way. The back up of traffic on forum would make it even more difficult and dangerous for vehicles to make these turns. Furthermore, the ability of traffic (cars/school busses) going north on forum to turn left onto woodrail and the ability of traffic going south on forum to turn left onto crestwood would be more difficult and dangerous because of the added flow of traffic on only one lane going both ways. What is needed is FOUR lanes from chapel hill all the way to green meadows as the voters recommended a couple of years ago. So, I urge you to withdraw this proposal. Thanks for listening.

+++++

On 4/16/17, 9:15 PM, "formmailer@secureserver.net" <formmailer@secureserver.net> wrote:

comments: Interested in your continued attempts to turn half of Forum Blvd over to bicycles. I disagree with you totally on this. You've stated recently that it costs less to add bicycling areas than it does to add auto roads. Of course it does when you turn highways into bicycle paths. Of course you don't give a flip about inconveniencing auto traffic. Thanks!

+++++

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 8:31 AM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,

Hope you are well, this took me a while to get to but wanted to share my views. I agree 100% with you that there is no need to expand Forum.

Though, I do think that having a dedicated area (around Schnucks, Katy Place) for public buses to stop by, so that traffic is not blocked - will be an important and necessary improvement. Every morning, they cause some traffic delays and might cause a perception among commuters that widening Forum might solve that problem.

+++++

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 12:09 PM
To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>
Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Ian,

Different views.

As a retiree I am able to purposely avoid Forum during rush hour. It needs to be four lanes in my opinion.

Also I believe the decision to not put a roundabout at Chapel Hill and Fairview was just a decision delayed. Again I am glad that I am retired so that I avoid being stopped in traffic as far back as Provision Living. Yes I avoid this area at afternoon rush hour too, but have been caught a few times.

+++++

Ian: I disagree with you. I think Forum should be widened to 4 lanes. -Dan

+++++

Date: Friday, April 21, 2017 at 3:03 PM

To: Ian Thomas <ian@ianfor4th.com>

Subject: RE: Protected Bike Lanes on Forum Boulevard: A Temporary Demonstration Project

Hey Ian,

Please excuse my delay in responding to your email – It’s been a hectic few weeks! I understand that you and I don’t always see eye to eye on issues such as roads, but this idea would be a disservice to the residents of Columbia. There is no justification to take existing road infrastructure (on an already busy and often congested road) and restrict it from vehicle use. This will cause massive delays in south Columbia and will be a nuisance to emergency vehicles trying to get through the area. Can you imagine an ambulance that all of a sudden encounters traffic on the one remaining lane and has to dive into the bike path, ruining the dividers and potentially causing harm to cyclists?! I am confident that residents of the 4th and 5th ward will not support this idea and would request that this be withdrawn.

In regards to expanding the remainder of Forum (which has been needed for many years now), we’re going back into the problem of voters passing a ballot with specific projects and the city council not upholding those wishes. As more of this happens, it will become increasingly hard for the city to pass future ballot issues, as all trust will be lost. I’m hopeful the majority of the council will honor the ballot projects and proceed with the widening of Forum to alleviate congestion on 1 of only 2 north south routes into south Columbia.

Thanks for your time!

+++++