

From: [Paul Tigan](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Union Street Family Friendly Bikeway
Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 7:19:45 AM

Mr. Mayor and City Councilors -

Thank you for your continued work to making the Union Street Family Friendly bikeway a reality. My family lives on a block with Union Street as a border (Church/D/Cottage/Union) and we eagerly await the ability to make use of this great improvement to our city.

No doubt tonight's agenda item on ROW Agreements is something rather procedural, but I'd like to take the opportunity to weigh in on the ambition of the design, which could be connected to the scope of additional ROW needed along Union.

My hope is that the city will not cut down a bunch of trees in order to pave more parking along Union Street. This is a proposed design alternative. Not only will it make Union a less beautiful street to travel on, it will needlessly dilute the purpose of the bikeway to prioritize biking.

Here is a link to the PowerPoint from June that shows the design alternative.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/Union-Street-NE-Family-Friendly-Bikeway-Project-Open-House-Presentation.pdf>

What I would challenge you to look at in these photos is *not* Union Street. Look everywhere *besides* Union Street. What I see is parked cars. Everywhere. Entire garages of parked cars. And also unused parking spaces. What I don't see is a safe place for families to bike, and honestly, I don't see a great tree canopy.

We shouldn't cut down trees to build more parking spaces in the name of bike safety.

I guess the question to ask tonight is what will additional ROW be used for? If it's for parking spaces, then we should save the **very limited budget** for this project for its dedicated purpose: improving biking. We know, as budget committee members, that the funds to do a project like this don't come around that often.

We should invest these dollars in a project that dramatically improves and connects the biking infrastructure in downtown Salem. Union Street was chosen because it can connect already existing facilities (railroad bridge, 12 St. Promenade) and soon-to-be-improved ones (Winter/Maple bikeway). My suggestion would be a design that invests in protecting biking families from the cars by replacing on street parking with protected cycle tracks.

I know tonight's agenda item is probably procedurally necessary, and the final design for the project is slated for end of this year. Just want to highlight the importance of the project and some design considerations.

Thanks for your consideration!

Paul Tigan

Ward 1