

Environmental Quality Commission
City of Phoenix
Office of Environmental Programs
200 W. Washington Street, 14th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

10.16.2013

Ed Zuercher
Interim City Manager
Phoenix City Hall
200 W. Washington St., 12th floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003

**Re: Environmental Quality Commission
Recommendation for Complete Streets Volunteer + Apprentice Program**

Mr. Zuercher:

The two biggest barriers to strengthening the City's Bicycle Program are a lack of funding and a lack of staff capacity. The cycling community is invigorated by the city's reprogramming of funds to help overcome the funding hurdle and the people are eager to help overcome the staff capacity hurdle. This public volunteer force is an untapped resource that would expedite the transformation of our city into a more bikeable, walkable, globally competitive city, but they need a clear, effective structure to collaborate and work successfully with staff. It is in the interest of fiscal responsibility and resource efficiency that the City of Phoenix's Environmental Quality Commission and the Bicycle Initiative Subcommittee (hereinafter, the "EQC"), submits this letter to recommend the establishment, support and development of a Complete Streets Volunteer + Apprentice Program.

The Complete Streets Volunteer + Apprentice Program has been discussed at length several times in detail in formal subcommittee meetings and with Streets and Transportation Department Management and Staff. The value and potential of a volunteer program to assist staff in implementing Complete Streets and bicycle planning projects are undeniable and yet indefinable, until we try. The Bicycle Coordinator has already facilitated internship, outlined a volunteer program and drafted a volunteer agreement to help with things like bicycle counts and inventorying conditions. But what is missing is a volunteer coordinator or the allocation of existing staff time to managing the program. It is understood that the plan is to request funding for a volunteer coordinator through the Spring 2014 budget process. However, directing staff and/or forming an apprenticeship now to execute the program could exponentially increase the department's productivity, build and improve the foundation of the program, expedite the improvements needed for a successful launch of Bike Share, take advantage of the fall-spring weather, and sustain the public's will to participate.

Given the increasing demand for bicycling and Complete Streets by current and potential residents, the ready supply of volunteers from the general public and groups like the Phoenix Spokes People, the current efforts to establish a Complete Streets Policy and a Complete Streets Advisory Board to track our progress, and the recent reprogramming of funding to enhance the bicycling program without the addition of staff, the Bicycle Initiative Subcommittee of the Environmental Quality Commission hereby requests you consider this matter a priority and unleash the potential of this volunteer force by either allocating staff time to establish, support and develop a Complete Streets Volunteer + Apprentice Program or by identifying other opportunities or partnerships to achieve these goals.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeremy L. Stapleton
Chair, Environmental Quality Commission + Bicycle Initiative Subcommittee

cc: Mayor Stanton
City Council Members