



Winston-Salem

August 13, 2019

**Recreation and Parks
Department**

City of Winston-Salem
P. O. Box 2511
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
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www.WsPLAY.us

Dear City Council Members,

As Winston-Salem moves from a manufacturing hub to a technology and health-care hub, both existing citizens and many people taking new jobs want to reside in a livable city, a part of which includes a focus on active and safe transportation options. Most importantly, livability initiatives can result in reduced pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and can reduce the severity of crashes that do occur. We, the members of the City of Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission, request that the Winston-Salem City Council support and fund initiatives to make Winston-Salem a more livable community and offer the following:

- 1) Set a goal to eliminate pedestrian and bicycle fatalities within 5 years. Request that initiatives to reduce the frequency and severity of bicycle and pedestrian crashes be a primary objective for the city and ultimately that the city set a goal to eliminate pedestrian and bicycle fatalities within 5 years.
 - a) From 2009 to 2018 there were 33 pedestrian fatalities in Winston-Salem. From 2016 to 2018 there were 64 crashes involving bicycles.
 - b) North Carolina is ranked number 9 in bicycle/pedestrian fatalities in the nation. (See the League of American Bicyclists 2018 Benchmarking Report (<https://bikeleague.org/benchmarking-report>)) for more information).
 - c) Traffic deaths are preventable. Many cities are looking at changing the mindset around fatalities with a goal of zero roadway deaths.
- 2) Establish a Winston-Salem Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC). A BPAC provides guidance to elected officials and others who are making decisions that impact bicycle and pedestrians and an ongoing process for resident input. The Bike League Best Practices document states a BPAC should:
 - a) Act as a check for elected officials and agency staff
 - b) Expect presentations and chances to give input to agency staff on major projects (e.g. bridges, street repaving, comprehensive plan)
 - c) Provide constructive guidance on bicycle and pedestrian issues
 - d) Ensure residents have an opportunity to give input and receive a response
- 3) Adopt the Urban Street Design Guide of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO.org) to begin city wide traffic calming policies to prevent and reverse the terrible current trend in bicycle and pedestrian fatalities.
 - a) Utilize these guidelines to revise the Engineering Standards.
 - b) Utilize these guidelines to revise the Unified Development Ordinance.
- 4) Revise Winston-Salem's Mission and Vision statements to incorporate "safe, sustainable, accessible and equitable transportation choices" verbiage.

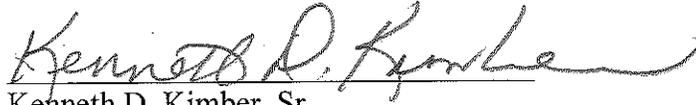
CityLink311

Call 311 or 336-727-8000
citylink@cityofws.org

City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity

We appreciate your time and efforts to make Winston-Salem a safer place for all and hope that you will consider supporting the above suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kenneth D. Kimber, Sr.", written in black ink.

Kenneth D. Kimber, Sr.

Chairman Recreation and Parks Commission

cc: Tadhg O'Gara, Kathy Gondring, John Gunckel, Sean Hawkins, Cherie Ingram,
George Peterson, Sonya Wagstaff