

# **NEW ORLEANS COMPLETE STREETS COALITION**

## **Over 50 Local Organizations in Support**

Dear Mayor Cantrell,

We, the undersigned organizations, businesses, community groups and associations strongly support improved safety and accessibility for walking and biking in the City of New Orleans. Improving biking, walking, and transit infrastructure will benefit community health and connection, economic engagement with local businesses, as well as improve the resilience of our environment. To keep up the momentum for improving transportation safety and accessibility, we're asking you to *prioritize and strengthen the existing Complete Streets Policy* to:

- Incorporate a focus on improving health equity
- Set higher design standards for low-stress street designs that are safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities, no matter how they travel or where they live
- Plan for creating comprehensive walking, biking, and transit networks that integrate with one another and connect people to job centers, parks, schools, healthy food outlets, churches, and more
- Integrate best water management practices into street design, building and repairs, which will reduce flooding and subsidence while extending the life of the roadway
- Create meaningful public engagement and accountability mechanisms, including data-driven annual reports that measure implementation success against established performance metrics

We believe deeply that biking and walking benefits communities. With Complete Streets policy at the heart of how we rebuild our roadways we will improve health equity, the local economy, our neighborhoods' quality of life, the resilience of our local environment, and the safety of all our people in the roadway.

When physically active for at least thirty minutes a day we reduce our risk of heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Providing an array of transportation options in historically underserved low-income neighborhoods reduces health disparities and costs for families. Increasing the ease of walking, biking, with improved transit services leads to less air pollutants, reducing a hazard for those with asthma and other lung diseases. Bike commuting leads to workers taking fewer sick days. Local businesses will also often see improved sales with the introduction of bike lanes and traffic calming measures.

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Safety for children, the elderly, and disabled are accounted for in Complete Streets design practices, giving more people the ability to get out and moving throughout their community. This increased activity and mobility of community members, as a result of infrastructure change, has been shown to increase economic vitality, attract more young residents, and is vital to increasing access and equity. As is recognized in the Resilient New Orleans Strategy and #EquityNewOrleans, streets built to be shared in every neighborhood is essential to extending equity to every New Orleans citizen. With almost 20% of New Orleans households having no access to a motor vehicle, improved mobility options can better connect people to jobs, parks, schools, and healthy food.

Our streets are the public spaces we rely on most in times of crisis, such as the ever-present threat of flooding. Ensuring residents can safely travel during and after instances of moderate to severe rainfall is of critical importance. Communities with low rates of car ownership are especially vulnerable to unsafe traffic conditions and health risks exacerbated by the likelihood of flooding, prolonged exposure to heat, and other environmental factors. Complete, green streets mitigate property damage and other impacts of localized flooding. Permeable paving, bioswales in the neutral grounds and rights of way, and similar practices will further reduce flooding and the subsequent damage to property. These approaches reduce subsidence in buildings and the streets themselves, which in turn extends their lifespan, making them more cost-efficient. Trees and native plants create shade to cool city streets, making them more comfortable for biking, walking, and reducing heat-related illness or heat island effects in cities.

With the surge in infrastructure investment underway, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve New Orleans residents' safety, accessibility, and ease of travelling their city. In doing so we will bolster our economy, our health, our environment, and our quality-of-life. Please act with urgency to strengthen the Complete Streets policy of the City of New Orleans, creating communities where streets are built to be shared by all.

Thank you,

<i>AARP</i>	Denise Bottcher, State Director
<i>Access Health Louisiana</i>	Chenier Reynolds, Operations Manager
<i>Algiers Point Association</i>	Kelsey Foster, President
<i>Bike Law Louisiana</i>	Charlie Thomas, Founder
<i>Bike Shoppe</i>	Aaron Newsome, Owner
<i>Blue Bikes</i>	Geoff Coats, General Manager
<i>Bokah Bikes</i>	Andres Gabriel Trombatore
<i>Broad Theater</i>	Brian Knighten, Owner

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<i>Byblos Development</i>	Ayman Jaber, Owner
<i>Center for Planning Excellence</i>	Elizabeth Thomas, President & CEO
<i>Committee for a Better New Orleans</i>	Keith Twitchell, President
<i>Community Voice</i>	Beth Butler, President
<i>Design Jones</i>	Dr. Austin Allen, Principal
<i>Dig Easy</i>	Antonio Alonzo, Founding President
<i>DiscoveryFEST Enrichment Program</i>	Sean Tate, Executive Director
<i>Entergy New Orleans</i>	Patty Riddlebarger, Social Responsibility Director
<i>Felicity Redevelopment Inc</i>	Ella Camburnbeck, Executive Director
<i>FinLaw</i>	T.J. Henry Jr., Owner
<i>Friends of Lafitte Greenway</i>	Sophie Harris-Vorhoff, Executive Director
<i>Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance</i>	Andreanecia Morris, President/Chair
<i>Green Coast Enterprises</i>	Jackie Dadakis, Managing Partner
<i>Higherpower Yoga and Cycling</i>	Charlie Thomas, Founder
<i>Hollygrove-Dixon Neighborhood Assoc</i>	Brenda Lomax-Brown, President
<i>HousingNOLA</i>	Andreanecia Morris, Executive Director
<i>Huber, Slack, Thomas &amp; Marcelle, LLP</i>	Charlie Thomas, Partner
<i>Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability</i>	Breonne DeDecker, Program Manager
<i>LifeCity</i>	Liz Shephard, CEO
<i>Louisiana Public Health Institute</i>	Joe Kimbrell, Chief Executive Officer
<i>MACCNO</i>	Ethan Ellestad, Executive Director
<i>New Orleans Black Social Workers</i>	Leonetta Terrell, President
<i>New Orleans Boulder Lounge</i>	Jessica Price, Director of Operations
<i>Parker Barber</i>	Micah Nickens, Manager
<i>Parkway Partners</i>	Katie Anousheh, Community Engagement Coordinator
<i>Pax Coffee</i>	Scott Burlington, Owner
<i>PlayBuild NOLA</i>	Angela Kyle, Executive Director
<i>Potence Gallery</i>	Caitlin Waugh, Owner/Maker
<i>Propeller</i>	Andrea Chen, CEO
<i>Ride New Orleans</i>	Alex Posorske, Executive Director
<i>Rouler Cycling</i>	Wes McWhorter, CEO
<i>Semi-Tough Cycling Club</i>	Townsend Meyers, Founder
<i>Southern United Neighborhoods</i>	Marie Hurt, Director

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<i>Spitfire Coffee</i>	Scott Burlington, General Manager
<i>StayLocal</i>	Meredith Cherney, Program Manager
<i>Stumptown Coffee New Orleans</i>	Kyle Nicholson, Manager
<i>Tulane Canal Neighborhood Dev Corp</i>	Kelsy Yeargain, Executive Director
<i>Tulane Prevention Resource Center</i>	Carolyn Johnson, Director
<i>United Saints Recovery Project</i>	Chris Schottland, Executive Director
<i>U.N.O. Transportation Institute</i>	Bethany Stich, Director
<i>Urban Conservancy</i>	Felice Lavergne, Program Manager
<i>WAMF</i>	Wade Rathke, Founder
<i>Water Collaborative</i>	Nathan Lott, Executive Director
<i>Wisznia Architecture + Development</i>	Marcel Wisznia, Principal
<i>Women With A Vision</i>	Raven Frederick, Community Engagement Coordinator