

Comments in letters to Mayor Michael Nutter supporting Bike Sharing in Philadelphia

January 18, 2009 to December 31, 2009

The text of the letter:

Dear Mayor Nutter: We know you are committed to making Philadelphia the "Greenest Sustainable City in America." Public Use Bicycling (bike sharing) is the most visible green initiative you can start. Everyone will recognize a shared bike and know our streets are less congested, pollution is reduced and our citizens are getting more exercise. Bike sharing in a city readily makes a "Green Statement." Now we need to ready our city for Bike Sharing. With just paint, you and your Department of Transportation can make new bicycle lanes and create bicycle boulevards, to make it easier for bicyclists and bike sharers to safely and quickly move through the streets of our city. The more cyclists on our streets, the safer it is for cyclists and motorists as each learns respect for each other. You can direct new economic stimulus funds into a program to make separated bike lanes on our larger more important streets such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Broad Street, Market Street, Roosevelt Boulevard, Girard Avenue and Aramingo Avenue. That could be just the beginning. Take this opportunity to quickly advance these ideas to make the greenest Public Use Bicycle Program for America's most sustainable city. Thank you,

Extra Comments:

Dear Mayor Nutter, On the morning of May 21st, a father and his 4-year-old son on a bicycle and "tagalong" were struck and critically injured by a car when crossing Martin Luther King Drive at the mid-block crosswalk below the Art Museum. This horrible crash is the latest example of the dangers of a beautiful park road that has been allowed to become a throughway. It is time to make MLK Drive safe for park users. Problem MLK Drive is a park road running through the gem of Philadelphia's park system that has become a throughway. A road designed for cars has lead to:

- * Excessive speeding by motorists through a recreation area
- * Lack of traffic calming measures at the mid-block crossing
- * Narrowing of the "trail" to less than five feet crossing the MLK Bridge

Solution It is time to make MLK Drive safe for park users by:

- * Traffic calming by reducing MLK Drive to one lane, inbound and outbound, for its entire length
- * Installing bike lanes to further calm traffic, allow for unimpeded two-way trail traffic across the MLK Bridge and make the trail safer by allowing faster bicyclists to ride on the street
- * Closing the entire length of MLK Drive for recreational use on Saturday and Sunday from dawn to dusk and therefore avoid conflicts with cars at the crossing during peak trail use times

There are additional steps that can be taken to improve the MLK crosswalk immediately:

- * At the outbound entrance ramp from Eakins Oval, narrow the travel lane
- * Put out "yield to pedestrian" silent policeman signs in the crossing
- * Install soft rumble strips approaching each crosswalk
- * Install yield bars in front of each crosswalk
- * Install User Activated Pedestrian Flashing Warning Beacons
- * Install "Your Speed" Driver Feedback Signs on MLK Drive

Turning MLK Drive back into a park road supports your efforts to make Philadelphia the greenest city in America by further highlighting beautiful Fairmount Park and, by encouraging people to engage in an active lifestyle, making our citizens and our air healthier and our city more attractive and sustainable.

asd 19103

The more cyclists on our streets, the safer it is for cyclists and motorists as each learns respect for each other. The safer it is for cyclists, the more cyclists there will be out enjoying the city!

bk 19148

A bike sharing system can be revenue-neutral. Check out the new Oybike in London:
<http://www.oybike.com/oybike/cms.nsf/Home>

jc 19130

As it is now, riding a bicycle in Center City is a dangerous and nerve-wracking experience. The cars completely own every foot of the roads. The only bike lane in the entire Center City area is the Northbound one on 22nd Street. An absolutely essential piece of any bike-sharing plan is to make the streets more viable for biking by creating a lot more bicycle lanes and even a bicycle boulevard. That really would make a huge difference.

jn 19107

Bicycles have changed my life for the better. I'm 45 pounds lighter than I was 3 years ago thanks to bike riding and racing. Cities with large bike and public infrastructures are more appealing and bring in more money.

crh 19460

Bike Share in Philadelphia would help out with my daly commutes

pl 19154

Bike Share Philadelphia is a great idea!!! Bring on the sustainability.

bm 19146

Bikes are important in Center City, not just cars.

eg 19147

C'mon man, we're the #1 bike city in the nation! Don't cut-and-run. Keep at it! What better way to entice young and exciting talented workers to come and stay in our city, than to make it even more bike friendly!! And by the way, please repave Spruce and Pine east of Broad Street... it's horrendous even for us lowly bikers.

dr 19148

Dear Mayor Nutter, I think that the bike share program will make Phila. one of the cities on the cutting edge. I am a teacher who commutes by bike each day and think bike share would be a great way to motivate students physically and create savings for them.

jc 19426

Dear Mayor Nutter, I appreciate the steps you guys have made with bicycle lanes on Pine and Locust st. I believe they were a great first step. I do not own a bike, and currently drive if I need to. But if we had bicycle sharing systems in the city I would definately rent one!!! Please get these systems for your citizens; and encourage local universities and hospitals to buy them too!!! www.bikesharesource.com looks like it has a great system. If the city can't do it; perhaps you can influence universities, such as Jefferson, Drexel, etc.

dp 19107

Dear Mayor Nutter, I know you are committed to making Philadelphia the "Greenest Sustainable City in America." Your Greenworks Philadelphia plan demonstrates this commitment. I believe that Public Use Bicycling (bike sharing) is the most visible green initiative you can start to strengthen this commitment. Everyone will recognize a shared bike and know our streets are less congested, pollution is reduced and our citizens are getting more exercise. Bike Sharing in a city readily makes a "Green Statement." Now we need to ready our city for Bike Sharing. With just paint, you and your Department of Transportation can make new bicycle lanes and create bicycle boulevards, to make it easier for bicyclists and bike sharers to safely and quickly move through the streets of our city. The more cyclists on our streets, the safer it is for cyclists and motorists as each learns respect for each other. You can direct new economic stimulus funds into a program to make separated bike lanes on our larger more important streets such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Broad Street, Market Street, Roosevelt Boulevard, Girard Avenue and Aramingo Avenue. That could be just the beginning. Take this opportunity to quickly advance these ideas to make the greenest Public Use Bicycle Program for America's most sustainable city.

cm 19132

Dear Mayor Nutter, I live here in Philadelphia and fly to Paris for work. That city's bike share program is something to behold. Please allow me to tell you all about it and how it will raise your profile as America's greenest mayor. I am available to speak to you at your convenience.

mk 19103

Dear Mayor Nutter, Let's make this happen! I moved to Philly 3 years ago and absolutely love it. Making Philly more bike friendly, and launching Bike Share, will help take us further towards becoming the best city in America! Cycling is fun, green, safe(r), and healthy....We need these things in our city!

ds 19128

Dear Mayor Nutter, Times are tough and you have to make many hard choices everyday! However, long term issues like sustainability and climate, as you know, are not going to go away. A visionary decision now can contribute in significant ways to betterment of Philly life in the coming years. We need those choices institutionalized and you have power to do that. Hoping for the best, Regards

sb 19104

Dear Mayor Nutter, We need Bike Sharing in the City of Philadelphia to get more people on bicycles and meet your goal of making Philly the Greenest City in America.

m 19102

Dear Mayor Nutter: I am an avid cyclist and strive to use my bike over the car any chance I get. A bike share program will make bicycles available to all residents and make Philadelphia a more sustainable city. Please support this program. Thank you,

mc 19147

Dear Mayor Nutter: Please take this opportunity to improve the quality of cycling in Philadelphia by introducing bike sharing in the Philadelphia streets!

md 19146

Dear Mayor Nutter: We know you are committed to making Philadelphia the "Greenest Sustainable City in America." Public Use Bicycling (bike sharing) is the most visible green initiative you can start. Everyone will recognize a shared bike and know our streets are less congested, pollution is reduced and our citizens are getting more exercise. Bike Sharing in a city readily makes a "Green Statement." Now we need to ready our city for Bike Sharing. With just paint, you and your Department of Transportation can make new bicycle lanes and create bicycle boulevards, to make it easier for bicyclists and bike sharers to safely and quickly move through the streets of our city. The more cyclists on our streets, the safer it is for cyclists and motorists as each learns respect for each other. You can direct new economic stimulus funds into a program to make separated bike lanes on our larger more important streets such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Broad Street, Market Street, Roosevelt Boulevard, Girard Avenue and Aramingo Avenue. That could be just the beginning. Take this opportunity to quickly advance these ideas to make the greenest Public Use Bicycle Program for America's most sustainable city. PS- Please...make your mark on Philly be remember for good causes!

mb 19146

Don't let the new Spruce-Pine bike lanes go to waste. They city can help fill them up and take more cars off the street. I'd love to see more support for a bike sharing pilot and program.

mg 19147

During these difficult economic times for the city, I strongly believe that instituting a program like this, despite its initial costs, will only serve to increase the standard of excellence in the area, the image of the city within and without, and the draw to the city as alternative forms of transportation like this become more readily accessible to the average citizen and visitor. It is costly for a city to lead the way and take progressive steps ahead of the pack in the short term, but it quickly pays off ten-fold as it becomes a role model for others. Instead of only looking for unnecessary expenses to cut, the city should be actively looking for progressive, positive steps to take like this. It should be investing money in setting itself up to be a non-expendable presence in this country, and I along with many regional and city residents are more than eager to work alongside the administration to make this happen. Please stand with us as an advocate for growth and progress!

jl 19333

Good idea!! If it works, it would be great!! How do you stop people from stealing the bikes!! I do like to ride in Philly, and this city is the best place to ride a bicycle!! + I think that Bike share Philadelphia would be a good idea, if it is used properly.. They have to have some what quality bikes that everyone would use, and they have to be located in specific area's like by the Art Museum, and on South Street, and on Chestnut st, it might be alot of money for the City, becuase of the cost of repairs and storage, but if the city could handle the cost of it than it would be great!!

anc 19147

I agree with the above script. My husband and I are in the city at least once weekly, usually twice. We support a lot of Philadelphia businesses. We see cyclists all the time, and encourage you to promote laws which would support more safety. Our son used to bike everywhere in Philadelphia until a van "doored" him. The driver admitted to being at fault. Our son was obeying all traffic and bike rules, and wearing a helmet. Two years later he still has not healed completely from his injuries. If he had not been wearing a helmet it is doubtful he would be alive today. While I think that making more bike lanes is not only commendable, but necessary, I think that forcing the issue on the wearing of helmets is even more so. I believe that it is just as crucial to public and personal safety as the outlawing of the use of cell phones while driving. I have even rolled down my window and called out, "Wear a helmet, honey!" until I realized I was trying to be a bit too much of a crazy mom to the whole world. I hope that writing you this letter will be more effective.

Ih 19440

I bike to school and would feel safer knowing that I am not contending with trucks and SUV's for space on the road. Thank you for the efforts you have made in center city.

zg 19135

I don't even own a bicycle at the present time; I live in the suburbs, and the main roads out here are not very bicycle friendly; yet for years I've been intrigued by the idea of a serious increase in commuter-bicycle use in Philadelphia. I remember some years ago seeing in some magazine a photograph of a major city in China where hordes of citizens were traveling to work on their bicycles. I've later come to realize that China envies America's massive use of automobiles and that there is a trend there now toward less bicycle and more auto commuting. This baffles me! The Chinese should be staying where they are on this point, and we Americans should be taking their example. Consider how many Americans these days drive a car to and from their work and then - before and after work - they anxiously search for ways to improve their health with exercise. (Many of these individuals can be seen in Fairmount Park, for example, furiously pedaling their bicycles before and after office hours. And how about the trip to the gym to sit on a stationary bike?) Why don't we connect the dots here, make our roads more bike friendly, and allow those commutes to be an opportunity for the much-desired exercise people are obviously craving? With this kind of change, Bike Share would surely be an attendant benefit for people looking to use bikes all over the city.

jjl 19444

I have used bike share in Paris and it was amazing!! Worked great and as a tourist I really took advantage of it.

gr 19147

I have used the bike share while visiting Paris. As a tourist it was amazing! It was my favorite part of seeing the city. It gave me freedom and mobility and I got to see much more than an average tourist plus it was more fun. I am certain that it would boost tourist in Philadelphia to have a bike share program. It was wildly popular in Paris and my first-hand experience was that it was awesome. In Philly I have my own bike. It is my sole method of transportation. Philly is a very bike-able city but biking needs more support. More bike lanes and more encouragement. I follow all laws but still encounter some motorists who are aggressive (scary!) and yell things like, "Get out of the street!" Please support this exciting movement towards a greener community.

gr 19147

I love biking in the city of Philadelphia, but the trails need a little work, and so do the street trails.. I almost got ran over yesterday, when I was traveling on Columbus Blvd, because there are no cops around.. I did not even have enough room to maneuver my bike off the street.. But, thanks for trying to make Philadelphia a better and safer bike city.. I believe in this city, and the officers that are running the streets..

amc 19147

I love Philadelphia and I love biking, and it's easy to see how making Philadelphia more bike-friendly would make this an even more wonderful place to live and work. A bike share program would make streets less congested and easier to navigate, would encourage citizens to become more fit and healthy,

and would help to reduce pollution and carbon emissions from cars, one of the major causes of global warming.

kj 19119

I recently visited Paris and Milan, in both places there are bike sharing programs that are very popular and reduce the number of cars on the road. Philadelphia can join these world-class cities.

rg 19148

I think it would be a great idea to have a bike share program in Philadelphia, because a lot of people like me, don't want to take their race bikes out every day, and park them on the streets.. Plus it does make a green statement, And the bike paths are almost completed, thanks to some very hard working bikers in Philly, I look at this city as a safe and hard working area, that supports bikers and runners, with ease.. Thanks to all our government, and hard working citizens...

amc 19147

I voted for you with the expectation that, among other things, you would see to it that bike sharing became a reality in Philadelphia during your term, and that measures would be taken to transform Philadelphia into the 'Portland of the East' when it comes to bicyclist-friendliness.

jp 19123

I want to be able to bike into Center City w/o fear of getting injured by cab drivers, Septa buses and the like. Take that stimulus money and make our streets complete! Make the roads safe for biking!!

hl 19147

I was a public health major who also studied nutrition at Penn. I then studied medicine at Jeff, and realized that the simple things go the farthest in terms of public health. Biking is one of those simple things that would go super far in terms of improving the city's public health and environmental impact (which are really one and the same!).

ejs 19104

I was just in Paris and saw first hand how successful these systems can be. I hope you can help guide Philly to make such smart decisions.

rlm 19130

I was just in Rome, Italy and excited to see they have adopted Bike sharing. I wholeheartedly support this effort!

at 19147

I'm hoping to see something wonderful like this here in Philadelphia.

lb 19147

Imagine a day when the schuylkill expressway is completely taken over by bicyclists, and there is no traffic, there is a quiet humm, and that is it, no horns, or bad mufflers, or road rage.. That would be the day now wouldn't it.. When people finally got the theory of no cars on the road, just bikes.. Yeah, right, I am 31 years old, and I will probably never see it happen, even in my 100 years of living! But atleast I can dream of it, right? Well, Bike share Philadelphia could potentially be the best thing for this City, especially if it done properly.. I also think that Philly, should be a good sponsor too other cities that are trying to do away with so much traffic, like New York, and Orlando... I think that we could put Philly on the Green Map...

amc 19147

Let's go green Philadelphia! I am a Septa R5 rail commuter who would like to be able to ride a bicycle between suburban station to my office at Broad and Callowhill.

pe 19301

Let's make Philadelphia the example for a new sustainable "green" economy for a new United States of America. You should make bike sharing a high priority to revitalize Philadelphia. Make Philadelphia streets a place of equity for pedestrians, bicyclist and motorist. Push for quick completion of the Schuylkill River Trail as Philadelphia's first Green Transportation Corridor. Link that to east-west bicycle boulevards in the Northeast, Northwest, North, Central, South and Southwestern parts of the city. Please make it easy for Philadelphia citizens to migrate from personal motor vehicles to use mass transit, bicycles and their feet to get around our great city.

ns 19103

Mayor Nutter, In response to amended building codes here in NYC where bike parking is now mandantory in all new construction, I've invented an Automated Storage and Retrieval Bike Parking System. We are seeking Bike Share programs in every major metro US city to be regionally licensed for use not only for the bike shares but for public parking of all types of bikes. Our ASR Bike Parking system is solar powered and ADA Compliant. Please feel free to contact me directly do discuss this emerging technology.

pn 10022

Mayor Nutter, Bike Sharing in Philadelphia is a key component to making Philadelphia the "Greenest Sustainable City in America." Without Bike Sharing we are simply paying lip service without making a commitment to do what needs to be done to become a "Green" City.

pt 19103

Mayor Nutter, Set the standard for a sustainable future in the 21st century and in our own city, and Pennsylvania.

tb 19103

Mayor Nutter, You have made a great start to making Philadelphia the city I hope to spend the rest of my life in. Please do NOT stop with the greening initiatives. Please consider all funding sources for bike sharing, more street trees, raised cross walks to slow vehicular traffic, These are just a few of the things I hope you will not let slip away just because of an economic downturn. I would love to speak with you directly at your convenience to discuss what I have seen in other world class cities across America and Europe and how I think you could use these ideas here in our city.

mk 19103

Mayor Nutter: The trial bike lanes on Pine and Spruce are fantastic, and I hope they become a permanent part of Philadelphia. In addition to painting the lines, we need the city to enforce penalties on vehicles parked or traveling in the lanes. We also need enforcement of penalties for cyclists riding on the sidewalk. It will remove bikes from the sidewalk, fill the bike lanes and make the city safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.

kl 19146

More bikes and public transportation, fewer single-driver cars, makes for a cleaner and less grid-locked city!

jn 19103

Mr. Mayor, Please support bike sharing. The future is now and it is about human power, wind power, sun power and creative power. It is about sustainability and you know this. Philadelphia needs bike sharing. (The city also needs bike stations.) Thank you.

jl 19111

My son is going to school everyday with the bike. This is great because we do not have to give him a car ride everyday. But I ALWAYS worry about his safety. It is a relief that there are more new bike lanes but they are still not enough! My other son also uses his bike when he is back from College, so both my children's safety depend on safe streets for bikers. In addition I am looking forward to being able to get a bike when I want to go for a ride in the park of the Schuylkill river. I do not have space to store a 3rd bike and I would like so much to be able to exercise this way while enjoying the beautiful river.

dt 19103

Not only could this create a greener city, but also a healthier city. Philadelphia's current reputation as an unhealthy city drags down its appeal nationwide. Please help boost the city's image, health, and sustainability.

kr 19146

Paris has bike sharing. Rome has bike sharing. Residents and tourists alike used bike sharing. If these cities can do it, so can Philadelphia.

eg 19147

Philadelphia should take the lead by investing in Green Infrastructure such as bicycle facilities.

jb 19110

Philly has been recognized as the city that has the largest percentage of commuters to work or school by foot. There is little reason why it also cannot be #1 in bike commutership, especially if the proposed Bike Share program is enacted. Residents and visitors alike realize the benefits of fewer autos in the downtown area. Bike lanes on Pine and Spruce are a great start; they need to be expanded to cover the rest of center city. Drivers are beginning to notice bikers and are now used to sharing the road. A good Bike Share program will make Philadelphia a healthier, more attractive city in many ways. Keep it going!

wg 08406

Please do not consider issuing an RFP for street furniture providers without including Bike Sharing Program within this package. If we want this to be the Greenest City in America, one large step is to take a few cars off the roads, and bring more bikers to our streets! This will not only help air quality and traffic congestion, but public health and city enjoyment as well. The recently completed bike lanes are a good start, let's get more bikes on them, too! The funding can come from many sources, and can be creatively financed through grants, budget sharing between departments, future government programs, benevolent donors, or a combination of multiple sources. The time to act on this issue is now, once contracts are in place, it will be very difficult to repeal or rewrite them to include this important provision.

mde 19123

Please don't lose this moment to some other city. Keep Philadelphia on the cutting edge of progressive green ideas. If you don't see the benefit of it look at the press San Francisco's Gavin Newsome got for making recycling of organic matter mandatory. You would do well to follow his example.

mk 19103

Please increase the safety of cyclists in the city, and consider reserving a few strategic streets for cycling only. Franklin wanted the 4 parks to be connected by green area so people could walk between them. Please help connect park and recreational areas with safe bike paths, and take bikes off the sidewalks to increase pedestrian enjoyment and safety.

rm 19130

Please make a bike share program a reality. It seems there is so much talk about turning the city "green" but very little is done about it. I think this would be a bold move in showing citizens and tourists that Philadelphia actually cares about making a move. Europe is amazing at such programs, I don't understand why this country...this city can't follow. Respect is also gained when implementing such a program and the people behind it are not forgotten. Apart from a few "green" buses, there is a very weak effort to go green in this city.

js 08033

Please make bike lanes... Fewer people will be scared to bike in Philadelphia!

jc 19107

Please make Philadelphia a safe city for biking and walking. Make Sansom Street a pedestrian and bike street, allow people to have relaxing nightly walks, begin a cafe society that is not ruled by SUVs, and let us LIVE in the streets instead of being afraid of the streets!

al 19119

Please support the Philadelphia Bike Share. Philly is such a great progressive City. This is just the type of program that will compliment all the other environmentally sound measures we are taking on both the public and private sectors.

jr 19106

Ride public transportation to center city and bike to your destination.

lg 19081

Support for a bike-friendly city will be good for the environment as well as the economic development of the city. Please move this initiative forward.

ngs 19130

THANK YOU for providing bike lanes on Pine & Spruce Streets: they have made my commute from Broad St to University City MUCH safer. Dedicated bike lanes mean bikers don't have to swerve in front of traffic or jump up on the sidewalk to avoid miscreant traffic. And I'm pleased that generally both vehicles and bikers are adhering to their proper lanes. I AM FOR BIKE SHARING ONLY IF TRAFFIC LAWS ARE BETTER ENFORCED. Currently renegade bikers, typically without helmets, mirrors, signals, or lights, are a road menace, as are many taxicabs. Yet the only traffic enforcement I ever see is metermaids collecting coins from the parking meters. So the city earns coins but loses lives or money to hospitals to repair damaged bodies.

mm 19146

Thanks for making me proud of being a Philadelphian. Thanks for taking the initiative to be a leader in this green step for the future of our city!

pr 19103

The Spruce/Pine bike lanes are wonderful. Thank you so much! On my daily commute from West Philadelphia to Center City I notice how much more rational and calm all of us are: bikers, drivers, and pedestrians. Having a bike share program would further lower the barrier to get people on bikes, bending the "transportation curve" towards a healthier, more sustainable, safer future for Philadelphia!

gkt 19104

This will greatly improve the livability and attractiveness of Philadelphia. Let's be forward thinking and start a bike sharing program. Thank you for the new designated bike lanes on Spruce and Pine streets!

sr 19106

While we work on feasibility studies cities all over Europe have adopted bike share programs. Please hurry if you want Philadelphia to stand out as anything other than back of the pack. Brussels has a functional program, Nice France is starting a program. The models are out there, dear Mayor Nutter, it will simply take your imprimature to make it move along and quickly. I imagine you think our urban issues are unique. They are not. I beg you to join me on a tour of the cities of Europe to see these programs at work. They do actually work and we are now far behind.

mk 19103

You can direct new economic stimulus funds into a program to make separated bike lanes on our larger more important streets such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Broad Street, Market Street, Roosevelt Boulevard, Girard Avenue and Aramingo Avenue. Your Spruce-Pine bike lane pilot program is a good beginning.

do 19103