

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

June 1, 2010 to February 1, 2011

The text of the letter:

Dear Mayor Nutter:

The Philadelphia Bike Share Concept Study completed for your Office of Transportation and Utilities says "YES" to bike sharing. The Saturday March 6, 2010 Philadelphia Inquirer Editorial says "YES" to bike sharing. In the August 12, 2010 Philadelphia Daily News columnist Michael Schmerconish says, "YES" to bike sharing. It is now time for you to say "Yes" and make bike sharing happen in Philadelphia in 2010!

You have stated repeatedly your commitment to make Philadelphia the "Most Sustainable City in America." Your Greenworks Philadelphia plan demonstrates this commitment. I believe that Public Use Bicycling (bike sharing) is the most publicly visible initiative you can start to strengthen this commitment. Everyone will instantly recognize one of these shared bikes and know our streets are less congested, pollution is reduced and our citizens are getting more exercise.

Now that the Philadelphia Bikeshare Concept Study says "Yes," the Inquirer says "Yes," The Daily News says, "Yes" and these other US Mayors: Fenty, Hickenlooper, Rybak, Newson and Bower say "Yes." It is your turn to say "Yes" and accelerate your timetable for bike share this year.

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I saw the demo today and I was convinced. Philadelphia NEEDS a bike share. It would make the city much easier to navigate. With a bike share it would be possible to do errands (shopping, post office, library etc) and leave the car at home.

And just imagine what it could mean for tourists and business owners! A bike share would make it possible to see the city in a way that encourages visitors to stop and shop. (Unlike the Ducks where they are locked in a vehicle and the only money they spend is for their ticket.)

Plus, just think of all the congestion (to say nothing of the pollution) a bike share could eliminate.

I strongly support a bike share and I vote.

C. R. R 19147

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I recently visited Seville, Spain where they have a bike share program and it works great!

Thanks,

S T 19104

Along with the bike share program I would also like to see improved roads around the city. Especially roads which have bike lanes. The east - west bound streets in center city are Unrideable in their current state. It is bad enough that no one is enforcing cars and trucks from stopping and parking in the bike lanes but the road condition is so awful that bikers might as well ride on more newly paved roads that don't have bike lanes at all.

I S 19147

I'm writing to support Bike Sharing. I know its tough to add a new program in this economy, but other cities are somehow able to do it. Denver, Miami Beach and Montreal are all ahead of us when it comes to bike sharing. If we are going to be the greenest city, we have to get started on bike sharing. Maybe you can start with a pilot program at the Navy Yard and the last Broad Street line stop. Maybe you can convince a few of the colleges to spend their money to start it on the campuses.

L B 19104

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I am a senior at Temple University, and as a person who has a bike I have realized it is the most efficient way of getting around the city. Not only have I enjoyed to places faster without emitting any pollution while also decongesting the streets, I have also been found that the biking, unlike car riding let's you explore a city more. I have learned my way around town, familiarized myself with many neighborhoods, and have been able to see Philadelphia through a very unique lens that has inspired me to want to learn more about its history, its people, and what we can do to revitalize a city that has all the potential to be a great one.

So please Mr. Nutter. Find a way to give everyone the same opportunity that I have. But also do it for the simple face that by creating bike share, you are creating a community. You will create a city that is more populated by bikes than by cars. Developers will have to stop thinking only about cars, highways, and strip malls, but will have to focus their energies on fusing commercial, residential, and industrial space in order to capitalize on the reality that bikers experience the city more locally than car-riders do.

But please don't just give in to the temptation of private companies to spread their ads, and to tarnish the sustainable ideals by letting (car companies for example) sponsor bike share. You have enough people working with you and in the city who can come up with a plan that will enable bike sharing without taking a step backward.

Let's do it!

R K 19112

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I was not only pleased that you were out in the rain with us bicyclers last Sunday morning, but also with your supportive remarks. I think I heard you say "YES" to bike sharing, but not quite. It is now time to make bike sharing happen in Philadelphia.

With your commitment make Philadelphia the "Most Sustainable City in America." it's time to catch up with Denver, Barcelona and so many others. Please make "Yes" to a bike

share program the explicit word in your actions to come..

T V 19103

Dear Mayor Nutter:

We recently spent our honeymoon in Paris, France and fell in love with their bike share program. We're thrilled to think that you might be considering doing the same thing here. We want to sell our car and bike but have no space to store a bike in our apartment. It's the only flaw to living in Center City. We hope you will support the Bike Share in Philadelphia.

Thank you so much for your attention!

J Maruri and M P

Jessica Maruri 19103