

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association
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August 11, 2010

Ralph Rognstad
Director of Planning and Development
City of Springfield
940 N. Boonville
Springfield, MO 65806

Dear Ralph:

The General Membership of Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association unanimously voted on July 22, 2010, to support The Link and the City's efforts to apply for funds to make the vision a reality.

We also as voted to be a part of the planning process of this project if the project is approved.

As a community, alternative transportation is underutilized and its citizens too dependent on their own cars. Investing in infrastructure improvements to make bicycle corridors more user-friendly will encourage riders to use it for daily commuting and reduce the wear-and-tear on our streets and environment.

In our neighborhood we have started a Walking School Bus for Williams Elementary which was started in the 2009-2010 school year. We had 16 enrolled, totals for the year with 15 kids walking to and from school when the weather allowed. We seen several of our kids Loose weight, Behavior Improve, Attendance Improve as well through out the year. WSB knows the struggles of not enough antique sidewalk space; we would have to walk on the opposite side of the road without sidewalks and we walked through both mud and wet grass when it rained due to water run off and flooding in High Street. This is run off water is from Roosevelt Street down to Marion Street. I believe that with The Link will help us get the improvements to the neighborhood walking access for WSB and all who live, play and work within the Tom Watkins Neighborhood.

The Link will literally bring together many of our major institutions and employers through the heart of our Neighborhood that might otherwise be overlooked by the average person driving a car. Thousands of low-to-moderate income households will have greater access to work and receive services through the proposed enhancements.

Tom Watkins Neighborhood which serves Kansas Expressway on the East, Division Street on the West, I-44 on the North and Golden on the south, appreciates the planning efforts of the City, Ozark Greenways, and the many community partners who support the growth of alternative transportation. If this project is funded, we will actively promote it to our 1566 homes and 125+ businesses that are in our Neighborhood Coverage Map.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Sincerely,

Marti Mowery

President

Tom Watkins Neighborhood Association

Coordinator for TWNA Walking School Bus program