

City of Wheat Ridge
7500 W 29th Ave
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

**Re: Leveraging additional general fund dollars for
priority bicycle and pedestrian safety projects**

March, 23rd, 2022



To: Wheat Ridge Mayor, City Council, and City Manager,

We are writing on behalf of the Wheat Ridge Active Transportation Advisory Team (ATAT), an Outside Agency supported by volunteers that has advised the city on improving active transportation options since 2013. The ATAT envisions a physically and economically vibrant community where people of all ages and abilities can maintain safe, healthy and connected lives through easy and equitable access to active transportation options. The ATAT focuses on outreach and education, advocacy, and connecting community members through walking and biking, and since its founding has provided community input on City projects affecting bicycle/pedestrian safety such as the Pierce Street bike lanes.

We would like to offer our comments on the \$10 million in unbudgeted general funds we understand are available to the city. We believe the top priority for these funds ought to be completing a safe biking and walking connection along the Wadsworth corridor by extending a side path at least to 32nd and Wadsworth. We regularly see pedestrians struggling to navigate the stretch between 35th and 32nd along the side of the road, and the worn trails or footprints in the snow are evidence of the need for this connection. Given the magnitude of the existing Wadsworth project, and the potential impact it will have for improving safe active transportation in the corridor, not filling in this gap would be a major missed opportunity to connect more neighborhoods to this central corridor of the city. This connection is included in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update as a side path, and would help provide connections from neighborhoods north of 35th and Wadsworth to City Hall, Crown Hill Park, the Lutheran Campus and other important destinations, and for neighborhoods south of 32nd to connect with businesses along Wadsworth, 38th, and more.

We also hope the city will fully explore the various options for leveraging this funding as match for regional and state funding opportunities to help our city dollars go further. In doing so, we would recommend working to address other top priority bicycle and/or pedestrian uncompleted projects in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your work to improve the safety and access for people walking and biking in this city.

Sincerely,

Wheat Ridge Active Transportation Advisory Team