



Princeton, December 5, 2024

To: Mayor and Council of Princeton

Cc: Bernard Hvozdovic, Administrator; Deanna Stockton, Deputy Administrator/Municipal Engineer; James Purcell, Assistant Municipal Engineer; Justin Lesko, Planning Director

Walk Bike Princeton is a recently formed non-profit group which promotes bike and pedestrian infrastructure in Princeton. We thank the Mayor, Council and the Princeton Engineering department for passing an ordinance to remove parking on Valley Road in order to add bike lanes along both sides of Valley Road, as discussed in the July 22, 2024 Council meeting.

Valley Road is a major east-west connector between municipal parks and recreation facilities, several Princeton public schools, shopping venues, offices and residential neighborhoods, including several new multi-family developments near Harrison Street. Adding bike lanes on Valley Road would provide the safety that would encourage residents, including families, to bike to these destinations, relieving congestion and the competition for parking. It would also relieve the congestion on the narrow Guyot Lane at peak times.

We strongly encourage Council to install bike lanes on both sides along the entire length of Valley Road, between Harrison Street and Witherspoon Street. We support Councilman Cohen's suggestion during the meeting that at least a westbound (north side of Valley Road) bicycle lane could be maintained to Witherspoon, since there is no on street parking on that side. Where there is insufficient width for a bike lane, (south side of Valley Road between Witherspoon and Harris) we recommend using sharrows and "Bicycles May Use Full Lane" regulatory signs (R4-11). In addition, we recommend installing a "bike box" at the intersection of Valley Road with Witherspoon Street, from which bike riders can make a left turn, and a phase in the traffic signals dedicated to pedestrians and bike riders. These are simple and cheap engineering solutions that will greatly improve safety.

Together, these recommendations provide interconnected biking infrastructure on Valley Road to Witherspoon/Mt. Lucas, which will assist cyclists traveling to/from Princeton Shopping Center, and will complement the plan to extend the Guyot Lane path through Community Park to Mountain Ave.

Bicycle lanes encourage riders, typically older students and adults, who are comfortable riding next to car traffic, and on Valley Road will free up Guyot Lane path for use by pedestrians, child bicyclists and others who are not comfortable biking near traffic.

We are excited to see the new bike lanes and the other planned improvements to encourage more people to walk and bike safely in Princeton.

Sincerely,
Walk Bike Princeton

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