



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | POSITION 8

COUNCILMEMBER TERESA MOSQUEDA

December 20, 2017

SDOT Director Scott Kubly

Seattle Department of Transportation
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 5th Ave
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Use of Bike Racks to Discourage Homeless Camping

Dear Director Kubly,

I am writing to express my concern over the installation of bicycle parking stands under the Alaskan Way Viaduct. As the media, neighbors and bike advocates have noted, there is no apparent need for bike stands in this corridor and their placement does not serve the purpose of advancing our transportation goals in Seattle. I am most troubled by the statement published on Dec 19, 2017 in the [The Stranger](#) from the SDOT Spokesperson confirming that the bike racks were part of a “strategy for lessening the hazards of unsheltered living by creating space for a different active public use.”

The placement of these racks specifically to interfere with those who are unsheltered, in a location which serves no meaningful public transportation purpose and along a street without a bike lane, does not appear to be a responsible use of transportation funding. Seattle voters approved the Move Seattle levy with the promise of transit and transportation infrastructure improvements to move people and goods. With respect to bicycle infrastructure and parking, that meant having a place to park near destinations for work, medical appointments, volunteer opportunities, or enjoying restaurants, bars, arts or other aspects of our city’s culture, not so that SDOT could discourage camping.

There is a need for bicycle infrastructure throughout our city to accommodate those who commute by bike and for those who enjoy the new bike-share rentals. As a public health advocate, I strongly support using our public places for active use, but it is unacceptable that bike infrastructure funding be expressly used for displacing those who are unsheltered. The city is undergoing a multifaceted process to help more folks secure shelter and housing options quickly, but I do not believe it is the role of SDOT to use bike racks as “part of the Homelessness Emergency Response effort” as noted in the article. Further, continuing to advance the notion that hostile architecture should be used to inconvenience those who are unsheltered is misguided.

I am requesting you provide the information that informed your decision to place these bike racks at this location. This should include any studies, reports, or data sources that suggest that this location is ideal for placement of bicycle parking, and also the expected location and expenditure for the next bike racks planned throughout the city.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Teresa C. Mosqueda
City Council Member, Position 8

CC: Jenny Durkan, Mayor of the City of Seattle
Michael Fong, Senior Deputy Mayor
Shefali Ranganathan, Deputy Mayor
Bruce Harrell, Seattle City Council President
Lorena Gonzalez, Seattle City Councilmember
Lisa Herbold, Seattle City Councilmember
Kshama Sawant, Seattle City Councilmember
Rob Johnson, Seattle City Councilmember
Debora Juarez, Seattle City Councilmember
Mike O'Brien, Seattle City Councilmember
Sally Bagshaw, Seattle City Councilmember
Anthony Auriemma, Legislative Affairs Mayor's Office
Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff ED, City Council