

I humbly submit my name for consideration for re-appointment to the Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission. I have lived in the Columbus metropolitan area for 7 years, and with my expectation to raise a family here for many years to come, am eager to contribute to the community.

I will bring a well-rounded perspective to the Commission. I was raised in Richmond, Va. where I rode my bike to deliver papers, go to school, and other utilitarian purposes. I spent 4 years in a college town (Charlottesville, Va.) that was swarmed with cyclists...much like our University District. I have also lived in Indianapolis and most recently, the Detroit area, which helps me give a perspective of where we DON'T want to go! I have traveled across the country by bicycle two times, and spent most of my free time vacationing by bicycle. I have cycled in 43 states, which has given me the chance to see the wonderful opportunities afforded cyclists and pedestrians in localities with the foresight and initiative to consider more than the automobile.

I represent a diverse community of cyclists in Columbus. Although I am a competitive ultra-endurance cyclist...I ride with the recreational cyclists, teach the newcomers, race with the racers, and try to commute to work by bike once or twice a week. The diversity and scope of audience I can communicate with was represented when I gathered 500+ cyclists to ride the Ride of Silence in May of 2004, 2005, and 2006.

My vision for alternative transportation in Columbus is not limited to a single solution... (e.g. multi-use trails) but rather a comprehensive strategy of education, engineering, enforcement and encouragement. My appointment to the Commission will help give cyclists and pedestrians the considerations and respect they deserve.

I have worked with the Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Bicycle Development Fund Committee and the Central Ohio Bicycle Advocacy Coalition to create the following vision for our cycling community:

- Increase safety.
- Promote bicycle awareness and tolerance by expanding and supporting educational programs.
- Increase participation in recreational riding.
- Advocate the use of bicycles as alternative transportation and support the development of infrastructure consistent with this goal.
- Lobby government bodies, agencies, and officials at all levels to provide funds, pass laws, and adopt policies and regulations to make bicycling as a form of transportation, recreation and sport, safer, more practical, and more widely available.
- Provide an ongoing summary of the state of bicycling in the Columbus area and progress made toward the aforementioned goals.

Additionally, I bring a wealth of diverse experience and networked contacts from current and previous volunteer activities. Please see the bottom of my racing resume' for the most recent sampling of those activities.

And, of course, my lifelong employment with the American Lung Association and American Heart Association in Indiana, Michigan, and now, Ohio...demonstrate my commitment to a life of healthy activities and a community of fresh air and traffic calming. Obviously my work with these organizations would be congruent with the mission of the Commission.

I have witnessed several fatal accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians. These episodes only deepen my resolve to carry the voice of the vulnerable cyclist to a level where we can have an impact on future generations. I've also attached two articles which articulate some of my beliefs regarding cycling advocacy.

Columbus is at a turning point. If we are vigilant, we can ensure our communities are "walkable," accessible by bicycle, and that traffic is calmed to keep our children safe.

Respectfully,

Jeff Stephens
202 Sinsbury Dr.
Columbus, OH 43085
(614) 781-8245
raamjeff@wideopenwest.com