

BPAC Statement in Support of Commerce Street Bikeway Redesign

Commerce Street has long been recognized as a critical connection in our bikeway network and is identified as a Priority Bikeway in the WalknBike Plan and as a Phase 1 upgrade in Connect Downtown. In its current form, it is unsafe and unfinished with inadequate protection. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission supports NDOT's proposal to upgrade the current two-way cycle track to a robust, concrete-protected bikeway that is safe for all ages and abilities.

We appreciate the presentation of the preliminary designs for this bikeway at our September 15, 2025 commission meeting and put forth the following recommendations:

1. We strongly recommend the use of concrete protection rather than flexible delineators, as the success and safety of this bikeway depend on the quality of its protection.
2. We also strongly recommend that this physical protection extend from 9th Avenue to 2nd Avenue, with the use of parking-protected arrangements as indicated to maintain protection and separation from vehicular traffic. We advise against leaving the segment between 2nd Avenue and 4th Avenue unprotected, as this will undoubtedly lead to illegal parking and conflicts with motorized vehicles.
3. We request that BPAC remain involved in the decision-making throughout this process and ask that any design changes and revisions be discussed with this commission.

We appreciate NDOT's leadership on improving this important part of our bicycle network and look forward to hearing more as these designs move forward.

Approved by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission on November 17, 2025.

Katherine McDonell, Chair

John Norris

Matthew Hertz, Vice Chair

Carey Rogers

KJ Garner

Courtney Ross

Alvin Haney

Anas Saba

A copy of this statement is to be forwarded to:

Diana Alarcon, Director, Nashville Department of Transportation

Mayor Freddie O'Connell

Sabrina Sussman, Chief Program Officer, Choose How You Move

Michael Briggs, Deputy Chief Program Officer, Choose How You Move

Councilmember Jacob Kupin