

April 10, 2020

Dear Mayor Kenney:

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are writing about the need for a great deal more outdoor space for pedestrian and bicyclist activity than we currently have. The Clean Air Council has circulated a petition recommending that a number of streets throughout the city be closed to motor vehicle traffic and made available to walkers, runners, and bicyclists. We agree that the city needs streets to be closed to motor vehicles in considerable numbers, and it needs them urgently and immediately.

Today we ask you to relieve pressure on the Schuylkill Banks trail, where social distancing is problematic if not impossible. Our suggestion is to close the outer lanes of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to motor vehicles so that it can be safely utilized by pedestrians and cyclists. Motor vehicle traffic on the Parkway is very light these days, and the cars will do just fine without the outer lanes.

With suitable encouragement, we think large numbers of walkers, runners, and bicyclists would be happy to take this alternate route to Kelly Drive and Martin Luther King Drive, thereby relieving congestion on the narrow Schuylkill trail.

The city closes these lanes to cars regularly for various reasons. Covid-19 is a very good reason to do so now. The procedures are in place and well-rehearsed. Please order the repurposing of these lanes immediately.

Yours sincerely,



Maggie Mund
President

cc Michael Carroll, P.E. <Michael.A.Carroll@phila.gov>,
Christopher Puchalsky <Christopher.Puchalsky@phila.gov>
Council Person Kenyatta Johnson <Kenyatta.johnson@phila.gov>
Council President Darrell Clarke <Darrell.Clarke@phila.gov>

Board of Directors

President: Margaret Mund

Executive Vice President: Donna Cordner

Vice Presidents: Phillipa Campbell • Barbara Halpern • Charles Robin • Robin Sweet

Secretary: Richard Gross • Assistant Secretary: Lauren O'Donnell

Treasurer: Matthew Schreck

Directors: Guy Aiman • Wade Albert • Michael Bowman • Jeff Braff • Elena Cappella • Paula C. Buonomo • Jane Epstein • Michele Ettinger • Kate Federico • Richard Frey • Matthew Fontana • Chuck Goodwin • Sam Gordon • Ayanna Haskins • Stephen Huntington • Amy Jared • Susan Kahn • Douglas Mellor • Lea Oxenhandler • Paul Rathblott • Harvey Ostroff • Nathaniel Parks • Nan Robinson • David Rose • Dawn Willis • Ben Zuckerman



April 10, 2020

Dear Mayor Kenney:

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are writing about the need for a great deal more outdoor space for pedestrian and bicyclist activity than we currently have. The Clean Air Council has circulated a petition recommending that a number of streets throughout the city be closed to motor vehicle traffic and made available to walkers, runners, and bicyclists. We agree that the city needs streets to be closed to motor vehicles in considerable numbers, and it needs them urgently and immediately.

Today we ask you to relieve pressure on the Schuylkill Banks trail, where social distancing is problematic if not impossible. Our suggestion is to close the outer lanes of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to motor vehicles so that it can be safely utilized by pedestrians and cyclists. Motor vehicle traffic on the Parkway is very light these days, and the cars will do just fine without the outer lanes.

With suitable encouragement, we think large numbers of walkers, runners, and bicyclists would be happy to take this alternate route to Kelly Drive and Martin Luther King Drive, thereby relieving congestion on the narrow Schuylkill trail.

The city closes these lanes to cars regularly for various reasons. Covid-19 is a very good reason to do so now. The procedures are in place and well-rehearsed. Please order the repurposing of these lanes immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis J. Boylan
President
Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
dj.boylan2@gmail.com
(215) 816-3535

cc:

Michael Carroll, P.E. <Michael.A.Carroll@phila.gov>,
Christopher Puchalsky <Christopher.Puchalsky@phila.gov>
Council Person Kenyatta Johnson <Kenyatta.johnson@phila.gov>
Council President Darrell Clarke <Darrell.Clarke@phila.gov>