



August 21, 2019

Dear Mayor:

With impressive population growth in recent years – and with more growth projected in the decades to come – Ames has certainly never had more cyclists than it does now. As part of its ongoing mission to help these cyclists feel safe and to help the city promote more sustainable transportation, Ames Bicycle Coalition requests that more “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs (see examples below) be deployed on various streets around the city of Ames.



Recently, cyclists have experienced what we feel is an increase in incidents of hostile drivers yelling at cyclists to “get off the road!” and/or to “get on the sidewalk!” As you undoubtedly know, however, “[e]very person riding a bicycle, tricycle or unicycle upon a roadway *is granted all rights* and is subject to all duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle” (Ames Municipal Code, Sec. 4.6, emphasis added).

We feel that the drivers who are scolding cyclists to “get off the road” are likely speaking from a lack of knowledge. That is, they might truly think bikes have no rights to the street and that a bike should always be on the sidewalk. Our hope is that increased use around Ames of more signs like those above will better educate drivers that bikes are indeed allowed to be on the road. Furthermore, we hope that such signs will lead to motorists operating vehicles more cautiously and more respectfully around cyclists.

Specifically, the Ames Bicycle Coalition would like to see approximately **twenty** new “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs deployed on streets that are well-used bike corridors but where no separate bike lanes or multi-use paths exist. We identify the streets below to be good candidates for these new signs (with one sign facing each direction of traffic):

- 9th St. (between Grand Ave. and Duff Ave., AND between Grand Ave. and Ridgewood Ave.)
- Ridgewood Ave (between 9th St. and 13th St., AND between 13th St. and 16th St.)
- Northwestern Ave. (between 6th St. and 9th St.)
- Clark Ave. (between 6th St. and 13th St.)
- West St. (between Franklin Ave. and Campus Ave.)
- N. Franklin Ave. AND S. Franklin Ave.
- 20th St (between Ames High School and Grand Ave. AND between Grand Ave. and Duff Ave.)

Some of the streets above may already have green-and-white “Bike Route” signs on them, but these are signs whose meaning, we feel, is likely unclear to many drivers. We ask, therefore, that “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs be added to any pre-existing “Bike Route” signs on the above streets.

We believe this all to be a reasonable, budget-friendly proposal. However, we are happy to have further conversations about these suggestions.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,
Ames Bicycle Coalition