

Misty Maza

Subject: FW: CSEP Testimony: Opposition to Orange St Plan

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Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:22 PM

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Please be cautious

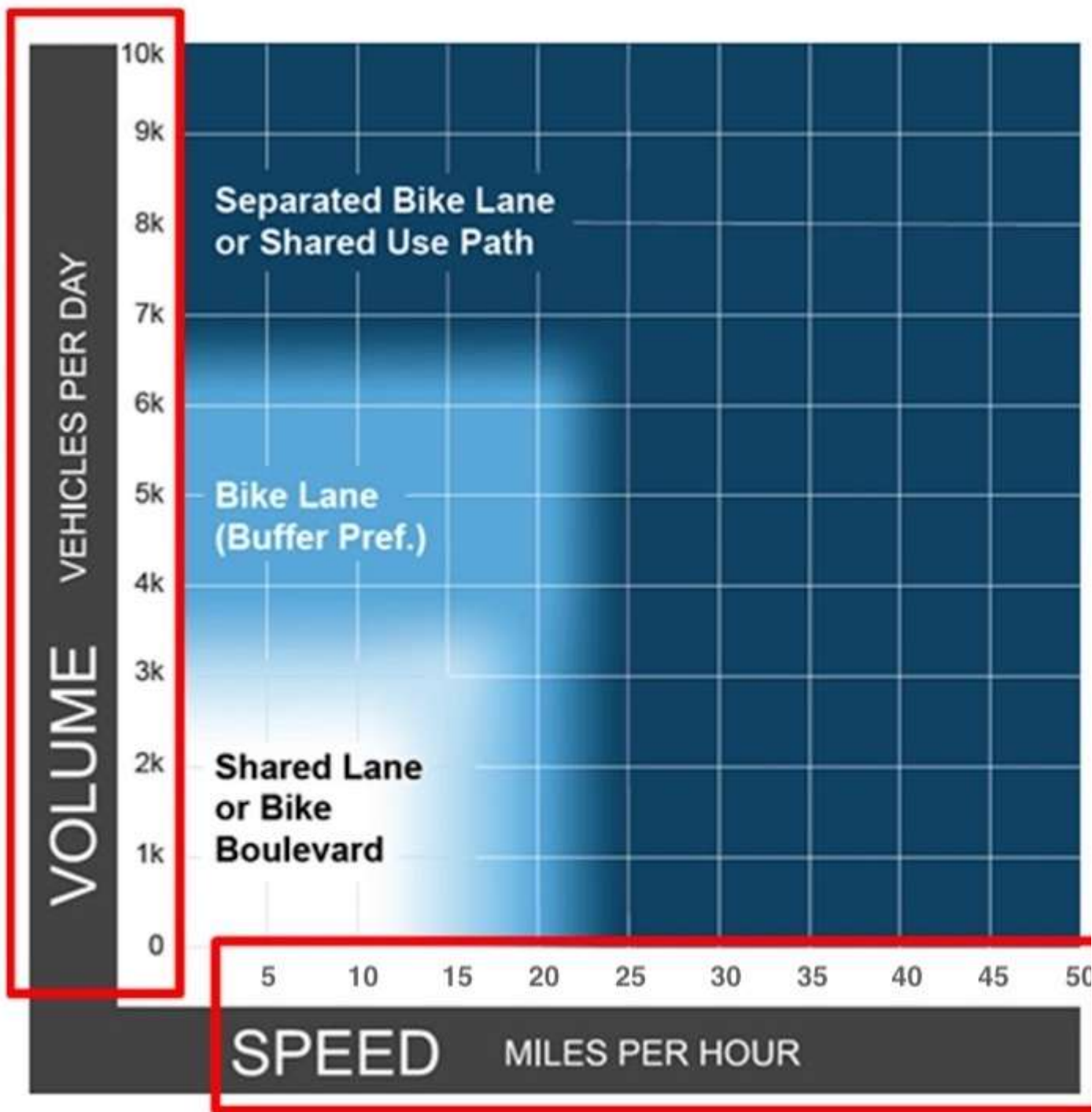
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Dear CSEP Committee Members,

I am sad to be emailing in strong opposition to spending a large amount of State money on the current Orange Street plan. First of all, so many other streets in New Haven need investment more badly, and second of all this plan will make Orange Street worse for all users.

I took a short 8 hour course offered by the National Highway Institute on street design, and even from this introductory course it was excruciatingly clear that the City's proposed plan for Orange Street is terrible. In the diagram below you can see the white section labeled 'Shared Lane or Bike Boulevard', which is what the City is hoping to build on Orange. The premise of such a street is that there are so few cars (and definitely no trucks or buses) who are not in a rush because it's a local street (not Orange), that they're OK driving 10mph behind someone on a bike. The idea is that the lanes are intentionally narrowed so that everyone is driving at the speed of the slowest user. There are lots of streets in New Haven that would be amazing for this, but Orange is not one of them. Orange Street is pretty bad to bike on now (because the bike lanes are not protected, in the door zone, and illegally narrow), but with this proposed change the only people who would be comfortable biking on it would be those who don't mind getting honked at by

the cars and busses backed up behind them.



I understand if it's currently politically infeasible to add protected bike lanes on Orange (in spite of a \$10,000 study showing that there would be plenty of parking even if half were removed), but please don't make it even worse for people driving, bussing and biking than it already is. If anyone is unsure about how infuriating this design would be for drivers, I would be absolutely happy to bike in front of you on my daily commute downtown.

Best,
Lior Trestman

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