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**Fw: Orange St safety**

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**From** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>

**Date** Wed 5/7/2025 3:02 PM

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**From:** Mary Zorzanello <mmz73@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 10:55 PM

**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>

**Subject:** Orange St safety

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I am resending my original testimony which is in support of item #3 of the agenda of the May 1 CSEP committee meeting agenda:

My preference was returning to the original bike lanes we had prior to repaving Orange St . But, the agreement that was proposed by TTNP which would address public safety with NO IMPACT on current existing parking spaces is acceptable. I therefore support the proposed funding for implementation of the planned Orange St safety improvement project.

Best regards,  
Mary Zorzanello  
869 Orange St 2-E

Original testimony below:

I am submitting this statement in response to your request for public input regarding various proposals regarding bike lane configuration on the stretch of Orange Street, which runs from Humphrey Street to Cold Spring Street.

I am a 33-year resident and homeowner/taxpayer on Orange Street, who is also an active runner, walker, bicyclist and car driver. My preference is to return the bike lanes on this stretch of Orange Street to the configuration that existed prior to re-pavement.

Removing parking on one side of the street, eliminating 90 of the 180 parking spaces on this densely populated residential and commercial artery would be a devastating blow to this neighborhood.

I attached a petition circulated throughout the involved neighborhood signed by a strong majority of those who live and operate businesses on and around Orange Street who also strongly support this position. Many of them have been afraid and intimidated to come forward during the contentious public meetings by what they perceived as bullying by bike lane supporters. But make no mistake, their opposition to this proposal is very strong.

This is a neighborhood which already suffers from a severe parking shortage and contains many multi-family dwellings, apartment buildings and businesses without off-street parking. They're all wondering where they are going to park their family car now. All dreaded the thought of not having access to reliable parking nearby for errands like unloading groceries and other necessities. We spoke to landlords, families with small children, elderly and disabled residents and they were most adamant that losing parking would cause crisis in their lives. We talked with the owners of all businesses on this stretch of Orange Street, whose patrons already struggle to find parking. They honestly do not know if their businesses will be able to survive. Business owners say it is a fantasy to imagine that a protected bike lane will bring in more customers, especially if they need to load their purchases into a car.

Frankly, myself and those with whom I spoke do not understand why such a big ask is being made of this particular neighborhood. Unlike so many streets all across the city, those who live on Orange Street have never requested a Residential Parking Zone or asked for any special parking privileges. We are just asking to maintain our status quo - and not have half of our parking taken away!

While we appreciate the parking study analysis, we do not feel it is realistic to say that those who cannot find an open space on Orange Street will simply be lucky enough to find another spot that might be open at that time on another street. Also, by my read of the Complete Streets Ordinance, it calls for deference to the needs of all users of the multi-modal transportation system, considering all the transit needs

of a neighborhood. It in no way mandates the mass removal of parking to be replaced with a protected bike lane at this location or anywhere else in the city. Nor does it suggest that the wishes of the local Alder and constituents should be overridden.

As a cyclist, I was relieved when the repaved stretch of Edwards Street between Orange and State was restriped with bike lanes in the same manner as Orange Street had been. I feel safe riding in those bike lanes. Why not restore the same bike lanes to Orange Street, perhaps enhanced with brighter colors? Why not create and promote an education program which fully informs bike owners, pedestrians and car drivers of their rights and responsibilities in sharing the road in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We thank you for your consideration of our statement, and we urge you to please not impose this hardship on our wonderful neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Mary Zorzanello  
869 Orange Street, Apt. 2-E, New Haven  
mmz73@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone