

## Jessica Mortinger

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**From:** Michael Almon <paradigm@ixks.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 28, 2017 2:42 PM  
**To:** kbrowning@douglascountyks.org; Bryan, Charlie; ecourton@baldwincity.org; paul.foundoukis@fhwa.dot.gov; lherring@cityofeudoraks.gov; dkaiser@ku.edu; bmatite@cityofeudoraks.gov; Scott McCullough; daniel.nguyen@dot.gov; grodden@baldwincity.org; clecompton@yahoo.com; Smith, Allison; Charles Soules  
**Cc:** Jessica Mortinger; Ashley Myers  
**Subject:** TAC agenda item - Lawrence Loop  
**Attachments:** TAC agenda\_Loop comments\_Sustainability Action\_2Jan18.pdf; BNSF denied Loop alignment\_Kamalah Young\_28Nov17.pdf

Hello:

Please consider the comments in the attached letter from the Sustainability Action Network regarding the TAC agenda item of the Lawrence Loop, on Tuesday, 2 January.

We urge you to decline approving the Lawrence Loop Alignment Study, given that BNSF Railroad has denied the Study's preferred alignment along their mainline track from the Burroughs Creek Trail to the Burcham Park Trail. Please also see the attached message from BNSF Manager of Public Projects, Kamalah Young, that denies the Loop alignment.

thank you,  
Michael Almon, Chair  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Program



P.O. Box 1064, Lawrence KS 66044  
a Kansas 501(C)(3) not-for-profit

MPO Technical Advisory Committee  
Lawrence City Hall  
6 East 6th St.  
Lawrence KS 66044

28 December 2017

re: Lawrence Loop Alignment Study

Committee Members:

The Sustainability Action Network urges you to decline approving the Lawrence Loop Alignment Study, given that BNSF Railroad has denied the Study's preferred alignment along their mainline track from the Burroughs Creek Trail to the Burcham Park Trail. Railroads consider public safety of paramount concern on and along their properties.

Whether or not the City of Lawrence can negotiate an alignment agreement with BNSF in any context, this Loop Alignment Study in it's current form is premature, and should not be the basis of further engineering study, TIP proposals, or CIP proposals.

This Loop Alignment Study was flawed from the beginning. It needs to be redrafted. The engineering consultant firm did not follow best practices. A professional approach would be to study alignment designs that were first determined to be legally and technically feasible and met the bicycle-pedestrian objectives, and only then conduct a public preference poll. Instead the consultant issued a poll based on romanticized public notions of the Loop's transportation needs, and neighborhood and downtown access, and then tried to pigeonhole the preferred alignment choice into a legal and technical form.

This draft of the Lawrence Loop Alignment Study more closely reflects the work of a public relations company than of a professional engineering company. Please disapprove it, and any further steps toward actual trail development, until the study can be redone.

Thank you,

Michael Almon, Chair  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation Program



**From:** Young, Kamalah [mailto:Kamalah.Young@BNSF.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** David Hamby <david.hamby@bgcons.com>  
**Cc:** Jessica Mortinger <jmortinger@lawrenceks.org>; David Cronin <dcronin@lawrenceks.org>; Brandon McGuire <bmcguire@lawrenceks.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Lawrence Loop

Jessica and David,

I wanted to follow up with you on the trail proposal discussed at October's meeting. Due to the close clearances, mainline train volume and length of the project adjacent to mainline traffic; BNSF does not recommend the trail project as proposed.

I discussed the layout with Division Leadership and they also had concerns with the very narrow right of way and distance to the proposed trail.

I understand that this project is a priority for the City of Lawrence and denying the project causes alignment and design challenges. If you have follow up questions for me, please let me know.

**Thanks**  
**Kamie Young**  
**913-551-4484**