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Evan Nolan
Councilmember

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MOTION

WE MOVE that the Administration work with the Department of Transportation and Engineering, Cincinnati Police, along with the appropriate state agencies and neighboring jurisdictions on both sides of the river, to identify and implement temporary measures to mitigate significant traffic delays due to the closure of the Daniel Carter Beard Bridge.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Administration provides regular updates on such mitigation efforts, their success or need for adjustments, planned additional mitigation efforts, and any funding needs to implement these efforts on a rolling basis until the bridge is reopened to traffic in both directions.

STATEMENT

The closure of the Daniel Carter Beard Bridge has severely impacted traffic throughout our urban core, particularly during peak rush hours, causing serious quality of life issues for thousands of commuters on a daily basis. Per the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the repairs will not be completed until at least March 2025.

The bridge closure presents major concerns shared between ODOT, Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Kenton County, and the City of Newport. Efforts to mitigate these issues require collaboration and coordination between the multiple jurisdictions. It is our expectation that all of these partners are committed to alleviating the temporary congestion.

The City has initiated this work and has access to the data and resources to lead on these efforts. In the absence of a clearly communicated plan coming forward in the past month, the City should immediately convene the relevant partners to further consider, implement, and communicate proposed solutions.

The City Administration should explore ways of directing traffic in highly congested areas, temporarily adjusting traffic patterns and light timing, signage to encourage keeping intersections clear, and any other temporary measures that may help alleviate traffic and keep pedestrians safe.

The Administration should regularly report to Council or the relevant Council committees on the progress and measures being taken and update the City's website, social media, and other communication channels.

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