

With Principal Stephens' permission, I'm writing this message to continue our discussion around [Safe Routes to School](#) since another student was recently hurt along W 41st Ave (this time at the intersection with Federal Blvd) when walking home from school. I believe our kids deserve safe public streets to get to and from school (and any other essential destination) safely and independently.

After this most recent preventable crash, I wanted to share some ideas with our Skinner community about **school-wide actions in the short term**:

a) a **rally** at W 41st Ave (which is also [a neighborhood bikeway](#) and should prioritize people who walk, roll and bike) and Federal Blvd with Skinner students and parents carrying signs demanding safe street design that prioritizes safety for our young people--**time**: after school (3:30ish) on a weekday. I can provide on-the-ground support together with other safe-streets advocates in the community. This action gives our kids more **visibility** both in front of drivers/the local community and also in front of city officials charged with making transportation/infrastructure decisions. I'm not aware of an action like this in recent years. We would invite local media organizations to document the event.

b) for a sizable group of Skinner students and parents to show up in support of a couple of students/parents (they can be the students who got hurt and their families or some other student/parent) while they **provide general public comment** at 5 PM **during a City Council meeting**. The first Monday session of each month prioritizes comments given by people 19 and younger. **We would need to make sure the speakers sign up right away when the sign-up form opens up on the Thursday prior at 5pm**. Speakers would need to sign up on Thursday starting at 5 PM by using [this form](#). **I'd be happy to sign people up (I'd need an email address and full name) and help write the public comment**. Once again, this would increase **visibility** of our concerns for kid-safe streets and empower Skinner students/parents to advocate for their safety and be civically engaged.

c) a **letter from the Skinner community** to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI) executive director, cc'ing our council representative and two at-large council members, asking for kid-safe streets that don't take years to implement. **I can help draft the letter**.

d) A few weeks ago, a Skinner parent spoke with Allen Cowgill from **The Denver North Star** about his family's experience moving on city streets. [The story is now available online](#). Please share it widely!

e) for a couple of Skinner community members to provide public comment about kid-safe streets and preventable crashes during the [DOTI Advisory Board meeting](#). Interested speakers just need to send an email to DOTI_AB@denvergov.org starting a week before the meeting, which is the second Tuesday of the month at 4 PM. The public comment period is at the beginning of the meeting, around 4:10 PM or so.

Please let me know your thoughts and feel free to share this message with other Skinner families. I have created [this Google Sheet](#) to gather thoughts from you all. Please enter your name in the form and how you'd like to help.

I'm grateful for Julie's leadership and for all of you caring about our students' well-being beyond the school building.

Alejandra X. Castañeda
[pronouns: she / her / ella]

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