

From: [Tanya Cunningham](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#); [Wolfe, James](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive Rebuild, Legistar 70385
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 4:53:16 PM
Attachments: [2-24 LMD Prelim Plan Graphic of tree removal.png](#)

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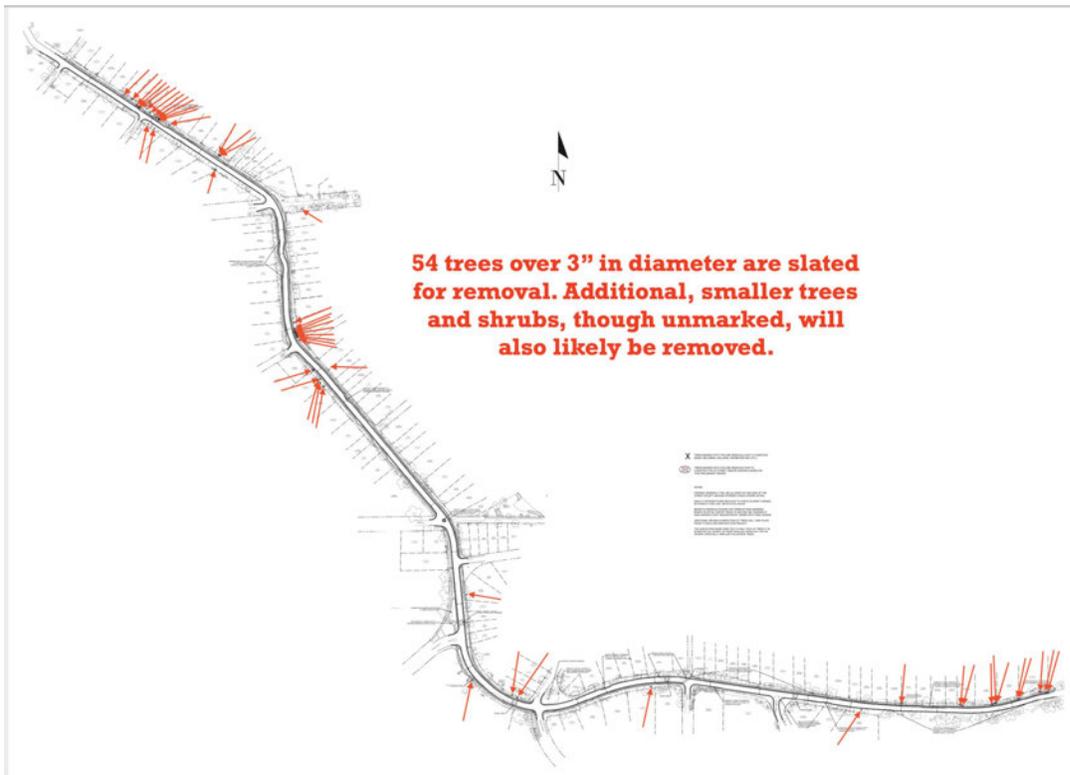
(Please distribute to Commission Members, and add to the Legistar 70385 record.)

Members of the Transportation Commission,

With regard to the planned rebuild project of Lake Mendota Drive, I ask that you take into considering the following points:

Trees-- The project does not yet, but must specifically address the process of replacing any trees and plantings that will be lost. How will the selection and placement of new trees and other plantings be carried out? What guarantee do we have of improving the overall tree canopy. There are at least 54 trees over 3" in diameter marked for removal, and surely many other, smaller trees and bushes will also be removed.

Decades ago, the Elms were all removed, but there was no deliberate replacement to improve the tree canopy, and as a result many less desirable species took over. Nevertheless, they are there, many of them are quite large and providing a huge amount of shade, water takeup, cleaner air, habitat for mammals, birds and insects, and even nutrients for the soil, in cases where people allow the leaves to stay on the ground.



Children -- Simply due to the nature of the real estate on Lake Mendota Drive, the average age of property owners tends toward older people. There are vastly more families with children on the side streets of the neighborhood between Lake Mendota Drive and University Ave. If it is so terribly dangerous for those children to not have sidewalks on Lake Mendota Drive, then what about all of those other streets?

Allocation of resources -- Vision Zero aims to have zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries. That condition has existed up to the present day. There have been no traffic fatalities or severe injuries. How can you improve on that?

No Sidewalks -- I oppose adding sidewalks to the rebuild project on Lake Mendota Drive. Lake Mendota Drive does not deliver traffic or pedestrians to any destination, save possibly the school or the park. The school creates its own traffic problems, which are not addressed in this project. There are no stores, no restaurants, no service businesses anywhere in this neighborhood. There has never been an ongoing problem with conflict between all users of the street. LESS development, not more, is what's called for.

My Ask -- Slow down this process. Get it right. This is one of Madison's jewels. It is a treasure for current residents and visitors and something worth caring for to hand to the next generations. For the benefit of all current and future users, please respect that Lake Mendota Drive was created as a Park, not just any normal, city street. According to the guidelines the

City claims to be utilizing, this process should be one that involves residents and their needs and desires and uses. That has not happened here.

Sincerely,

Tanya Cunningham

█ Lake Mendota Drive