

From: [Scallon, Peggy](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Please slow down
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:06:12 PM

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Please register my comments for Agenda Item #5 70626
Final approval of roadway geometry of LMD

April 12, 2022

Dear Transportation Commission and Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

We are back again to discuss the LMD project. We are hoping that the Transportation Commission will be open to hearing the voices of neighbors this time. There have been several informational meetings related to this project, but the City's approach has been top-down & paternalistic, and neighbors have not been listened to. These have not been actual "listening sessions", just frustrating meetings in which our concerns are repeatedly disregarded.

We do not want sidewalks and the road design as it is proposed by the current City plan. We have given many reasons for this, and many good alternatives. And City staff come back and insist on sidewalks on both sides. "Because this is how we do it when we re-do streets." But our proximity to the lake and the historical and cultural significance of this parkway should signal that we should not take a cookie cutter approach to this project.

At a minimum, please listen to us and install sidewalks on one side of the street, but not two sides. Sidewalks on both sides are not necessary, and the increased paving, salting and tree loss would make this a devastating choice.

We should have an environmental impact study to learn what this proposal will mean for Lake Mendota, the adjoining habitat and Well 14. Why the rush? We need to be stewards of the lake and the watershed. And the Ho-Chunk should also be involved. There are 25 effigy mounds on the eastern section of LMD, and City staff have not involved the Ho-Chunk at all in this project. This seems so disrespectful and dishonorable.

For reasons that are unclear, the last hearing of this project before the Transportation Commission resulted in disparaging remarks toward neighbors. We are asking for you to listen with an open mind and actually hear what we are saying. We are concerned for the health of Lake Mendota, the habitat the tree canopy provides, and the health of Well 14. The tree canopy is beautiful and provides a natural sense of repose for all to enjoy. If this project is rushed and the natural environment is not honored, it will be gone for generations, if not forever. Death by a thousand cuts.

I also want to mention that Alderman Furman has not represented the majority of neighbors who are not in favor of this plan. He has been contemptuous of our voices, he has obfuscated this process, despite what he says about his blog, and he has even gone so far as to use City staff time to go out and remove harmless, informational signs from neighbors' yards that provide links to the neighborhood survey and ways to get involved. He has the City Building Inspector then send emails that defend his actions. Surely the City Building Inspector has more important things to do than send emails about keeping clutter out of the right-of-way, especially when other advertising signs are left in place. He simply does not represent the wishes or suggestions of the neighborhood and he tries to silence our ideas and our voices.

My bottom-line requests are two-fold:

1. Slow down the timeline for this project.
2. But if you won't slow it down, at a minimum, please compromise by putting in sidewalks on one side only, but certainly not on both sides.

I would ask that the TC pause to consider that as public officials, it is your job to balance a variety of interests, and not just promote one agenda. Who speaks for the owls in the trees, or the shade that the trees provide, or the ducks, birds, fish and swimmers, boaters, and kayakers?

Please listen to our suggestions and our input.

Why the rush? Slow down this project. This street is unique and has ecological and cultural significance. The plan as it is proposed has excessive paving, tree loss and will forever change the character of this beautiful neighborhood. And most importantly, we have an opportunity to improve the quality of Lake Mendota through updated green infrastructure, and instead we are taking a step backwards.

Sincerely,
Peggy Scallon
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