

2/03/09

To: City of Madison

Madison Board of Public Works

Dear Members,

The Greater State Street Business Association (GSSBA) met today and discussed the upcoming construction plans for the 200 block of West Gilman this summer. We have unanimously agreed that the construction should be delayed until 2010. Our reasoning is stated below.

First, the 2009 construction schedule already includes three projects in the State Street area. These three projects are Gorham Street/University Ave. from State Street to Breeze Terrace, Gilman St. between State and University and several blocks of Broom Street in the same area. This will cause considerable disruption of traffic in the State Street area through the year. The GSSBA is in favor of these projects, but many merchants and restaurants are concerned about the financial impact on their businesses that another round of construction on the 200 block of Gilman St. will cause, as this block of Gilman St. was also under construction last summer.

Second, this will make the Buckeye parking lot very hard to enter and exit. Parking is already at a premium in the downtown area and adding this construction to the other projects will only cause increased congestion and confusion for State Street patrons.

Third, Lisa Link Peace Park, which borders Gilman reconstruction, is scheduled to have construction documents drawn up over the summer for a possible project beginning in the fall of 2009. This project includes remodeling of the park plus the addition of a building. This construction will include changes to Gilman Street to accommodate pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It is redundant, invasive, and a waste of resources to not include any changes to the streetscape to the project in 2010.

Our biggest concern is unnecessary congestion and financial harm to downtown Madison, especially in these hard economic times. Please consider delaying this addition of the 200 block of Gilman Street reconstruction until 2010 to insure a project well done and a prosperous summer for State Street businesses.

Sincerely,

John B. Hutchinson, President

Greater State Street Business Assoc.

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