

Harnish, Sharon L

From: Jeff Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 6:58 PM
To: Transportation Policy Board
Cc: Evers, Tag; Callaway, Renee
Subject: Fwd: SW Path speed limit needed

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Hello,

I believe I appeared before your board 22 years ago as the co-chair of the DMNA transportation committee. I was leading the effort to get traffic calming measures on Gregory Street.

With the backing of our longtime alderperson Ken Golden and 95% signed agreement by the homeowners on Gregory Street, we achieved our goal. The survey done by the city after the traffic “humps” were installed showed average speed declined from 37 mph to 25 mph and traffic volume decreased 40%. It was a very rewarding experience.

If you have not seen them, I hope you will read my two emails below sent to Renee Callaway and our alderperson Tag Evers. In them you will see I spent my entire adult life bicycle commuting to work in Madison and Green Bay. I am a great believer in reducing our carbon footprint with bicycle use. Indeed at age 74 I’m sure I will be getting an E-bike in the near future. I am not against them.

However, sitting in my backyard along the SW path, I can hear, before I see, the E-bike riders who are going 20 mph - and not peddling. I think those Class 2 E-bikes belong on the city streets because they are no different from a moped or a gas-powered motorbike.

I am also hearing and seeing Class 3 E-bikes going 25+ mph on the SW path, and that’s even scarier. Walking our one year old granddaughters on the path is not safe under those conditions.

I realize the city does not have money for enforcement, but I strongly believe that a 15 mph speed limit is a reasonable compromise to keep walkers, young children and runners safe. The E-bike I rented in Tucson last winter was a class 1 with a speedometer, which I think are more common now.

I like the new signs you are posting concerning etiquette along SW path. But I think if you initiate a speed limit it would be much more visible - to the people that need to see it because they’re going so fast - to have street size speed limit signs posted at every major intersection: Regent/Monroe Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Glenway Street, Odana Road and Midvale Boulevard.

Thank you for addressing this issue and your good work.

Jeff Carroll
2548 Gregory St., Madison. 608-354-2705

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>
Date: October 20, 2021 at 5:42:51 PM CDT
To: "Callaway, Renee" <ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: "Evers, Tag" <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: SW Path speed limit needed

Hi Renee,

Thank you for responding so quickly. I am happy to hear State statute does not prohibit setting a speed limit for motorbikes on multi-use paths. If I understand your first paragraph below correctly, it sounds like 15 mph is the speed limit by law for, as you call them, "e – scooters" on paths. Are e-scooters the same as motorized "E-bikes"?

I live on the SW path below the flagpole and the panther effigy mounds in the cemetery. That section of the path between Virginia Terrace and Glenway is very heavily traveled by bicyclists, runners, skaters, motorized skateboarders and walkers of all ages from the near West side. I think it's popular partly because of the adjacent woods which are pleasant to view.

I regularly bike on the Cannonball and Cap City paths, which are not nearly as heavily trafficked as the SW path. Not as many commuters, I would assume.

Signage is something I have advocated for with my prior council representatives in the past 20 years. However, I think motorized e-bikers going 25 or 30 mph on the SW path are not going to slow down to read a sign with several guidelines about path behavior. They are going too fast to read it.

Yelling seemed to work with one guy but I don't care to get into confrontations with people. He had startled me and my wife walking our grandchild. There are a lot of parents and grandparents with strollers and with children in backpacks on the SW path in our neighborhood.

So I think large 15 mph signs posted regularly I would work much better than a detailed sign. You can't miss those when you're driving your car and it says 25 mph. Even though few follow that on Monroe Street.

I am happy to share the path with motorized e-bikes as long as their speed is safe. Like I said in my email below, I am a great believer in bicycle commuting. But lately we've been walking in the cemetery because we don't feel safe on the SW path behind our home.

Can setting a speed limit on the SW path be decided by the Mayor or does it need to work its way through the city Council committee process?

Thank you, Jeff

On Oct 19, 2021, at 4:30 PM, Callaway, Renee
<ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Jeff,

Thanks for reaching out. Speed limits on the path are something that does come up from time to time. Currently state law sets 15mph as the max speed limit set for e-scooters on paths although they are legally allowed to go 20mph on streets. State statute only has the speed limits that are the max speeds for providing assistance for different types of electric bikes (20 mph for Class 1 and 2 and 28mph for Class 3) but no speed limits were specified for paths.

Some communities do have speed limits on their paths with some choosing 10mph and some 15mph. Often times this is in more heavily trafficked areas only and not across the entire path network. State statute does not seem to prohibit municipalities from setting speed limits on shared-use paths. When electric bicycles became legal in Wisconsin the statute was written so that they could be prohibited from paths. However, when the law passed Madison did not opt to prohibit legal electric bicycles from paths as they are a great way to get more people biking especially people who do not see a regular bicycle as an option. As to whether it would be enforceable, that would need review by the Attorney's office especially since most bikes do not have speedometers (except Class 3 electric bikes).

It is definitely a complicated issue and we have held a couple of focus groups around the issue of sharing the path to hear from different users. In addition, we have heard through our Let's Talk Streets engagement that the paths seem too much like bike freeways and that there are not enough opportunities to stop, to enjoy the space and that they don't provide connections to all neighborhoods. The City does have some plans including in early 2022 installing new signage along the Southwest Path including signage reminding people of etiquette and safe path usage. We also are looking at addressing the issue of having places where people can stop, move off the path and enjoy the space including a new area along the Cannonball Path near Leopold Elementary.

The City also continues to try and build out a better network of bike routes that people of all ages and abilities will feel safe using so that people feel that there are more options beyond just our network of shared-use paths.

Thanks,
Renee

Renee Callaway
Pedestrian Bicycle Administrator
(she/her)

City of Madison Traffic Engineering
Madison Municipal Building Suite 109
215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Madison WI 53703
608-266-6225

From: Jeff Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Callaway, Renee <ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: SW Path speed limit needed

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Tag,

Thanks for dropping off the “no leaves in the streets” sign.

I never heard back from Renae on my email below suggesting a speed limit on the SW path. I’m sure she’s been busy.

My wife and I have been walking our 4 month old granddaughter on the path mid-late morning the past six weeks. Normally the low traffic volume at this time of day would make it fairly safe.

However, we’ve been startled by motorbikes (cleverly marketed as “E-bikes”) flying along at probably 25 to 30 mph. Some don’t even peddle - just like on a moped. I know what 20 mph looks like because on a downhill I can ride that fast, and that’s probably the top speed you see on the path with younger very fit riders who are not on motorbikes.

I bicycle-commuted to work on the Capitol Square 3.5 miles from the near west side for 40 years, including all winter for 15 years after the SW path was built. We frequently ride to the west on the path into the countryside. I am a strong supporter of reducing our carbon footprint by bicycling. But there need to be some guidelines, even if the city cannot afford enforcement.

The one thing I believe would be most helpful to make the path safe for walkers, many who are older citizens, and little children on bikes, would be large speed limit signs posted at regular intervals. I know you have expressed concern in emails to me in the past because you walk the path as well.

When the path was built, our former alderman Ken Golden was the lead sponsor with the city. He was also my near neighbor. In a meeting at West high school announcing the path, several bicycle commuters asked why it was not being

named the "bicycle path". Ken said it's a multi-use path, not just for bicyclists. But it's frightening to be walking up there with people motoring by at 25 to 30 mph.

I know the state passed a law allowing 28 mph on paths. I believe they also allow cities to set a lower limit. I realize how busy you and the city Council have been with very important matters these past 18 months during the pandemic. Do you think it's possible to propose to your colleagues on the council to have a 20 mph speed limit on all city paths?

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and thank you for your good work.

Jeff Carroll
2540 Gregory St., 53711

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>
Date: April 23, 2021 at 1:43:58 PM CDT
To: "Barros Hoffens, Jose" <JBarrosHoffens@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Cindy L Dunne <cldunne08@gmail.com>, Bonnie Schmidt <bonniesch@gmail.com>, jgoldman@daveygoldman.com, Marlisa Kopenski Condon <marlisako@gmail.com>, cherpm@msn.com, e.walljasper@gmail.com, Cacia Tipple <cacia.tipple@gmail.com>, annclarkm@gmail.com, Sally Lehner <sa_lehner@hotmail.com>, "Callaway, Renee" <ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>, "Rider, John" <JRider@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Dear neighbor, thank you for your feedback about our shared Path's system

Hi Renee and Pepe,

Thank you for including me on the interesting group discussion Monday. There is one question I wanted to ask at the end but we ran out of time.

Are you going to propose that the city have a 20 mph speed limit for E-bikes on the city paths?

If I understand the 28 mph state law correctly, doesn't it say that doesn't it say that a municipality can mandate a lower speed limit on paths?

Thank you, Jeff

On Apr 13, 2021, at 4:04 PM, Barros Hoffens, Jose
<JBarrosHoffens@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello All,

Thank you for your interest in this and for sharing your preferences for meeting time and date with me. Based on the poll, we will meet on Monday April 19th, 9am-10:15am (I added 15 extra minutes in case we need extra time).

Meeting link and information below.

During the meeting, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Team at Traffic Engineering for the City of Madison will be assisting for the use of breakout room to further the conversation. You will get the chance to express your perspective about the campaign, its goals and scope. You will also get a different email from me with a calendar invitation for this meeting.

Important: This meeting is for neighbors that preferably walk and use the shared path system, and have concerns about safety and etiquette of users in the path. If you know other people that might fit into that spectrum, please feel free to forward this invitation. **This is not a space for Bicycle Advocates.**

Thanks again and see you next week.

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Pepe Barros Hoffens (He/They)

Hablo Español - (608) 242-4767

Pedestrian and Bicycle Outreach Specialist

Traffic Engineering – Ped/Bike Unit

City of Madison

Pepe Barros H (He|They|Él) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Share the Path Campaign - Input meeting #2
- Neighbors

Time: Apr 19, 2021 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cityofmadison.zoom.us/j/96029127378?pwd=Z3RYMUdVY0JiVVdEKzVsZ293NXNOQT09>

Meeting ID: 960 2912 7378
Passcode: 954850
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,96029127378# US (Chicago)
8778535257,,96029127378# US Toll-free

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 960 2912 7378
Find your local number:
<https://cityofmadison.zoom.us/j/96029127378>

From: "Barros Hoffens, Jose"
<JBarrosHoffens@cityofmadison.com>
Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 10:51 AM
To: Cindy L Dunne <cldunne08@gmail.com>,
Bonnie Schmidt <bonniesch@gmail.com>,
"lgoldman@daveygoldman.com"
<lgoldman@daveygoldman.com>, Marlisa
Kopenski Condon <marlisako@gmail.com>, Jeff
Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>,
"cherpm@msn.com" <cherpm@msn.com>,
"e.walljasper@gmail.com"
<e.walljasper@gmail.com>, Cacia Tipple
<cacia.tipple@gmail.com>,
"annclarkm@gmail.com"
<annclarkm@gmail.com>, Sally Lehner
<sa_lehner@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Dear neighbor, thank you for your
feedback about our shared Path's system

Thanks to everyone that has answered the poll so far.
If you have not yet sent your preference, please make
sure you do **before tomorrow Tuesday April 13th at
12pm (noon)**.
Thanks!
-Pepe

From: "Barros Hoffens, Jose"
<JBarrosHoffens@cityofmadison.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 3:19 PM
To: Cindy L Dunne <cldunne08@gmail.com>,
Bonnie Schmidt <bonniesch@gmail.com>,
"lgoldman@daveygoldman.com"
<lgoldman@daveygoldman.com>, Marlisa

Kopenski Condon <marlisako@gmail.com>, Jeff
Carroll <jtcarroll48@gmail.com>,
"cherpm@msn.com" <cherpm@msn.com>,
"e.walljasper@gmail.com"
<e.walljasper@gmail.com>, Cacia Tipple
<cacia.tipple@gmail.com>,
"annclarkm@gmail.com"
<annclarkm@gmail.com>, Sally Lehner
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Cc: "recallaway@cityofmadison.com"
<ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Dear neighbor, thank you for your
feedback about our shared Path's system

Dear resident,

You are getting this email because you have submitted a Report a Problem or have directly contacted the Department of Transportation of Madison to share your concern, complaint, comment or suggestion in the past regarding safety in our system of Shared Paths.

We would like to share with you that we are in the process of creating a new way to address user's conflicts by the use educational programming and an active communicational campaign called Share the Path. In order to better shape the goals and scope of these programs, we would like to hear more of your perspective on this issue.

We want to make sure that your thoughts and the ones from your peers are included in the process, and we would like to have a sustainable response to this issue. For that purpose we are going to organize an online group video call to begin with.

If you are interested in participating in this call please fill out this [doodle poll](#) with your preferences for the time and date of this meeting.

We hope to hear from you!
Warmly,

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Pepe Barros Hoffens (He/They)

Hablo Español - (608) 242-4767

Pedestrian and Bicycle Outreach Specialist

Traffic Engineering – Ped/Bike Unit

City of Madison