

From: [Sara Ensign](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Sidewalks in Spring Harbor Neighborhood
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:32:08 AM

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Dear Transportation Planning Committee Members,

I want to share with you my concerns about the projected road reconstruction on Lake Mendota Dr. I grew up in the Spring Harbor neighborhood and then purchased a house back in the neighborhood as an adult. I live on the 5600 block of LMD, not on the lake. Since I've lived in this neighborhood for a large portion of my life, I think it's important to share my perspective. This neighborhood is historically significant; my own house was built in 1925. The neighborhood has a unique look and feel; it's very eclectic with a wide mix of architectural styles and ages of homes. The lack of sidewalks on LMD creates an unusually "old" feel in the neighborhood; this neighborhood is not just another boring suburb.

I attended the public information zoom meeting on Jan. 11. The data shared in that meeting indicated that the average speed of cars along our road is 18 mph. In addition, there have been no fatal accidents involving cars and pedestrians. Of the six accidents that have been recorded, most involved cars hitting parked cars.

I'm very concerned that the addition of sidewalks along our road will drastically change the feel of our neighborhood. In addition, I'm concerned about the loss of green spaces and the loss of trees, and the addition of impervious surfaces so close to the lake. I am also alarmed at the proposed cost of this construction that will be charged to the homeowners.

I fully support the city's plan to repave the road, as it has degraded significantly over the years. However, I vehemently oppose the addition of sidewalks. If sidewalks must be included, I strongly urge you to consider alternatives to traditional sidewalks. Perhaps we can narrow the street, allow parking on only one side, and install sidewalks directly next to the street or create a biking/walking lane along one side, as Tallyho Road in Shorewood Hills does.

I know that our alderperson, Keith Furman, is in favor of adding sidewalks, and many neighbors agree with me that Mr. Furman is not representing our interests well.

Thank you for your time,

Sara Ensign