

From: [Sari Awadalla](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Oppose Whitney Way Safety Improvements Proposal - Loss of Parking
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 7:11:42 AM

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I strongly oppose the proposed removal of parking on Whitney Way.

I have lived on South Whitney Way near the Regent Street intersection for 10 years. I regularly use the existing bike lanes to commute to and from work between South Hill Drive and Sheboygan Ave. Not once was a parked car an issue on this cycling commute. The bike/parking lanes have always been sufficiently wide enough for both uses, including during the winter months when I also bike these lanes.

The loss of parking would be a significant hindrance to the residents along this route of Whitney Way. The section between Sheboygan Ave to Mineral Point Road is primarily residential. Being forced to park on side streets would be an unwelcome burden on the residents of those side streets as well as an inconvenience for us. I live at home with my two adult children, each with their own car needed for transportation to work. We generally can make do with one car in the garage and two in the driveway. But there are times when it is necessary for one to park in the street so the garage parker can have access to come and go. As an aging adult, it would be difficult for me to park several blocks away and have to carry groceries and other supplies such a distance, especially in inclement weather. I have slipped and fallen on snow and ice several times every winter without carrying anything, this would increase that risk. This setup also requires the availability of street parking anytime friends and family visit. Covid has made this a rough year for social visits, it would be a shame to be forced to permanently reduce our social interactions due to an unnecessary change. A buffered bike lane that eliminates parking would provide no additional benefit than the current bike lane.

The current traffic setup on Whitney Way was a significant factor in my decision to purchase my property on Whitney Way. The bike/parking lane was a huge plus for us, as was the two lane setup in each direction and divided road. Having two lanes for the amount of traffic that flows through this corridor lightens the flow and makes entry/exit onto Whitney Way much simpler considering it is a major thoroughfare. Reducing this to a single lane in each direction will force the traffic flow to be more dense, causing more difficulty in opportunities for pedestrians, bikers, and vehicles to cross traffic.

I am not opposed to reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph. Although I do not feel that this would change the behavior of those that already speed here. Those offenders will ignore the 25 mph laws the same as they ignore the 30 mph. I say this with all sincerity as a resident who recently had a motorcycle rider die in a violent crash just in front of my house. I performed chest compressions on this person and am well aware of the dangers of speeding here. But I am convinced that funneling traffic through a narrower space and slowing down conscientious drivers will make this section even more dangerous by those who flagrantly ignore the current laws.

As a resident of Hill Farms, I ask you to reject the buffered bike lane and reduced driving lanes proposal along Whitney Way.

Respectfully,

Sari Awadalla
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