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To: [Transportation Commission](#)
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Subject: Item #70626 - Modify LMD reconstruction plan to better protect our lakes and drinking water
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Item # 70626 – Lake Mendota Drive reconstruction

Transportation Commission Meeting, April 13th, 2022

Date: April 13th, 2022

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway, Leadership and staff of the City of Madison Engineering Division, and Members of the Transportation Commission, Board of Public Works, and the Common Council

I oppose the reconstruction plan for Lake Mendota Drive (LMD) in its current form. The plan needs to be modified to reduce the amount of connected impervious surface and the amount of curb and gutter than is in the current plan, reduce and slow the flow of water to Lake Mendota, minimize the direct discharge of water and contaminants to Lake Mendota, and save more trees. Concerned citizens with expertise in these areas want to work together with the City to help improve the Lake Mendota Drive reconstruction plan to better protect our lakes and drinking water and the trees all while providing accessibility and safe connectivity for all users and preserving the natural aesthetics of this unique drive. We need a lower impact design that reduces the amount of impervious surface and reduces the amount of curb and gutter than is in the current plan all while providing safety and accessibility for pedestrians and other users. Not only do we need to reduce the amount of impervious surface we need to design it in such a way that it reduces the volume and rate of floodwater before it reaches the lake. This will allow more clean water to stay off the pavement and make it to Lake Mendota as spring flow and to Well #14 as our drinking water. Clean water will help benefit human health, protect our aquatic ecosystems, and provide safe water for all recreational users. We also need to save more trees to help further intercept water, filter pollutants and sediment, and return clean water to our environment. Saving more trees will not only help provide more clean water, it will also provide cooling, wildlife habitat, and preserve the natural aesthetics of this unique and historic corridor. We also need more than just rain gardens. We need to integrate more features into the plan such as constructed wetlands, bioretention basins, and swales to help filter, slow and minimize the water before reaching Lake Mendota. Clean lakes and clean drinking water in Madison are a valuable resource and vital to the health, diversity, and economics of our community, and we need to make every effort to improve this resource. By improving this reconstruction plan we can do a better job of protecting these vital resources for our community today and for future generations.

Jana Stewart

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