

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Deb Ankowicz <debankowicz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments
Cc: All Alders; Conklin, Nikki; Stouder, Heather; Mayor; Wachter, Matthew; Lynch, Thomas
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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

RE: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway because:

A. The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway; therefore **we have not had a true engagement process**. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were obtained and submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022-Legistar file 73264-agenda number 1, and **new ones** will be attached to this agenda item; **27 + objections** were written to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023, after the neighborhoods first found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway Legistar file 79282 agenda item three. The neighborhoods were **never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway** when it was first introduced on Nov. 2, 2022 Legistar file 74436 agenda number and passed on January 3, 2023 Legistar file 74926 BEFORE the engagement process started in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, **69 other residents had/have concerns about a path** in the Sauk Creek greenway; in addition, **27 residents in the second phase two survey were against a path** compared to 6 who were for a path. Staff said in its memo that they continue to support this feedback. This does **not coincide** with the above numbers or other noted feedback.

B. **The City planners claim that the path goes back 30+ years. THIS IS INCORRECT** because the Park and Open Space plans do not apply to the Sauk Creek greenway, and the 2000 MPO Bike Plan said a Sauk Creek path was listed as **a third priority** given “suitable on-road routes exist”. The 2015 MPO bike report said there is **not a bike gap** in the neighborhood and refers to the following roads that are within 1000+ feet of the greenway: Westfield Road, as primary bike road and High Point Road, a secondary bike road. **Most importantly, this is the root document** that the City then used for other reports (2018 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and the neighborhood was not notified about it to have its voice heard. The neighborhood first heard about it at the March 2018 City Engineering meeting on the greenway.

C. City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents' concerns include that the path will cause safety concerns (dangerous), increase crime, lead to losing too many trees, does not connect to anything, negatively impacts wildlife, increase runoff, costs too much to build and maintain, and increases noise

and litter. This is all true and these concerns were **summarily dismissed by City staff without substantive evidence to the contrary**. In addition, the staff **ignores strong environmental concerns** from residents, some of whom are scholars and researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other paths that staff mentions are not comparable for several reasons. Those paths did not require cutting down massive numbers of trees to build the paths; the other bike paths were platted before the homeowners acquired their lots; the paths are near commercial uses and not the 90% frontage of homes that abut the Sauk Creek greenway eliminating a buffer to the homes; the other paths are longer than .8 miles etc. The other paths did not cause significant animal displacement such as the coyotes, foxes, owls, deer, and birds that live in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

D. The City is incorporating in the streets “safe” bike paths per its Complete Green Street Guide, and it can avoid a bike path in the Sauk Creek area by using the **nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road**, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo. Also, city officials show that a bike path should connect in the Bike Network rendering to connect to High Point Road, just north of the future bike path across the beltline. It makes more sense to use a shared bike path on High Point Road rather than build an expensive bike path on the narrow Sauk Creek Greenway. High Point Road is also shown to connect to the south to a new bike path that will parallel the beltline.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City’s Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and opposition to a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

Sincerely,
Deborah Ankowicz
406 Sauk Creek Drive,
Madison, WI 53717
debankowicz@gmail.com
608-843-4341

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Lora Burchill <lburchill@tds.net>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 11:05 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Wachter, Matthew; Stouder, Heather; All Alders
Subject: Sauk Creek Greenway Bike Path Objection

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To Whom It May Concern:

As area residents, we object to a bike path running through the Sauk Creek Conservancy. We even more strongly oppose a lighted pathway. While the green space needs managed due to the invasive plants particularly the buckthorn and mustard, it is our strong desire that this space remain "wild". We have regular spottings of turkey, deer and fox in the neighborhood. This space is essential habitat in a city that should be maintaining and protecting its remaining public natural spaces. Lighting this space adds insult to injury regarding destruction of this area. Most major cities along the bird migratory paths (Minneapolis, Chicago, etc.) are working hard to reduce lighting to aid wild animals. This proposal moves the opposite direction. Someone should study the impact it would have on the bird population.

Secondly, we are avid walkers and regularly commute using our e-bike when the weather is fair. Despite living a few hundred yards from the conservancy, we have never had a desire to cross the space on a bike. High Point Rd and Westfield-Farmington both are bikable roadways running parallel to the proposed pathway. Because of the green space, there are few through streets and only scant cross traffic on this stretch of road. We feel safe riding these alternatives and no of no biking incidents in this area.

Lastly, the proposed path connects to no trail on either end. If it were part of a larger bike system (perhaps running to downtown Middleton), I could get behind the idea of a permeable pathway without lighting, but this proposition literally goes nowhere.

Lora and Todd Burchill
2 Gray Fox Circle
Madison, WI 53717
312-919-9952

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Jackie Crum <JRF@athletics.wisc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 11:53 AM
To: Haas, Michael R; Horvath, Linda; Callaway, Renee; Zellers, Benjamin; Tao, Yang; Wolfe, James; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Conklin, Nikki; Veum, Eric
Cc: Benny and Jenny Iskandar; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; cindyschott@gmail.com; Donald Schott; Britta Wunderlich-Herr; Sharon Dosch; Alison Tenbruggencate; cjjillings@gmail.com; gbjillings@gmail.com; Gwen Long; ellen.madaline@gmail.com; LVSipovic@gmail.com; peherr@chorus.net; cgomezschmidt@tds.net
Subject: Concerns regarding proposed bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway

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

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Alder Conklin, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

As a resident backing the Sauk Creek Greenway, I would like to express in this email that I am not in favor of a Sauk Creek Greenway bike path for the many reasons already brought up by our surrounding neighbors.

Additionally we are concerned with safety, limited connectivity the path would create, and the addition of asphalt/concrete/gravel at the expense of our precious natural green spaces within our city.

Please consider preservation above over-engineering and ease of maintenance for the design of this amazing greenway we all have.

Sincerely,

Jackie Crum



Jackie Crum

Assistant Coach | Women's Hockey | University of Wisconsin

LaBahn Arena | 105 East Campus Mall | Madison, WI 53715

Office: 608-263-6282 | Fax: 608-890-4909 | Cell: 608-239-2077

[email](#) | [web](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Camp](#)

Tom Dosch
13 St. Lawrence Circle
Madison WI 53717
608-445-2401
dosch@charter.net

Via email

October 23, 2023

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Alder Conklin, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

Re: Sauk Creek Greenway and related bike path issues

Dear Ms. Callaway, et al.,

I am writing about the city's planned work in the Sauk Creek Greenway and in particular the suggestion that a north-south bike path be constructed in the greenway when work is done in the next several years to improve the drainage way. I'm hoping that someone from the city will answer my questions, either directly in response to this letter or at the upcoming November live and virtual public information meetings regarding the "Sauk Creek Greenway Corridor Plan Kick-Off."

I am particularly interested in this project for two reasons. First, my wife and I live adjacent to the greenway and for some years have shared our concerns with city engineering staff about the damage done and threatened by the extensive erosion in the drainage channel. Aside from destroying trees in the greenway and impairing water quality in the Lake Mendota, it threatens to undermine the service road and sanitary sewer main on the west side of the greenway. Here's a photo of the channel immediately behind our house, taken 5 years ago. It hasn't gotten any better since and the eroded bank is now within about 8 feet of the road and sewer main. It's for reasons like these that we strongly support the city's proposed improvement to the drainage way.



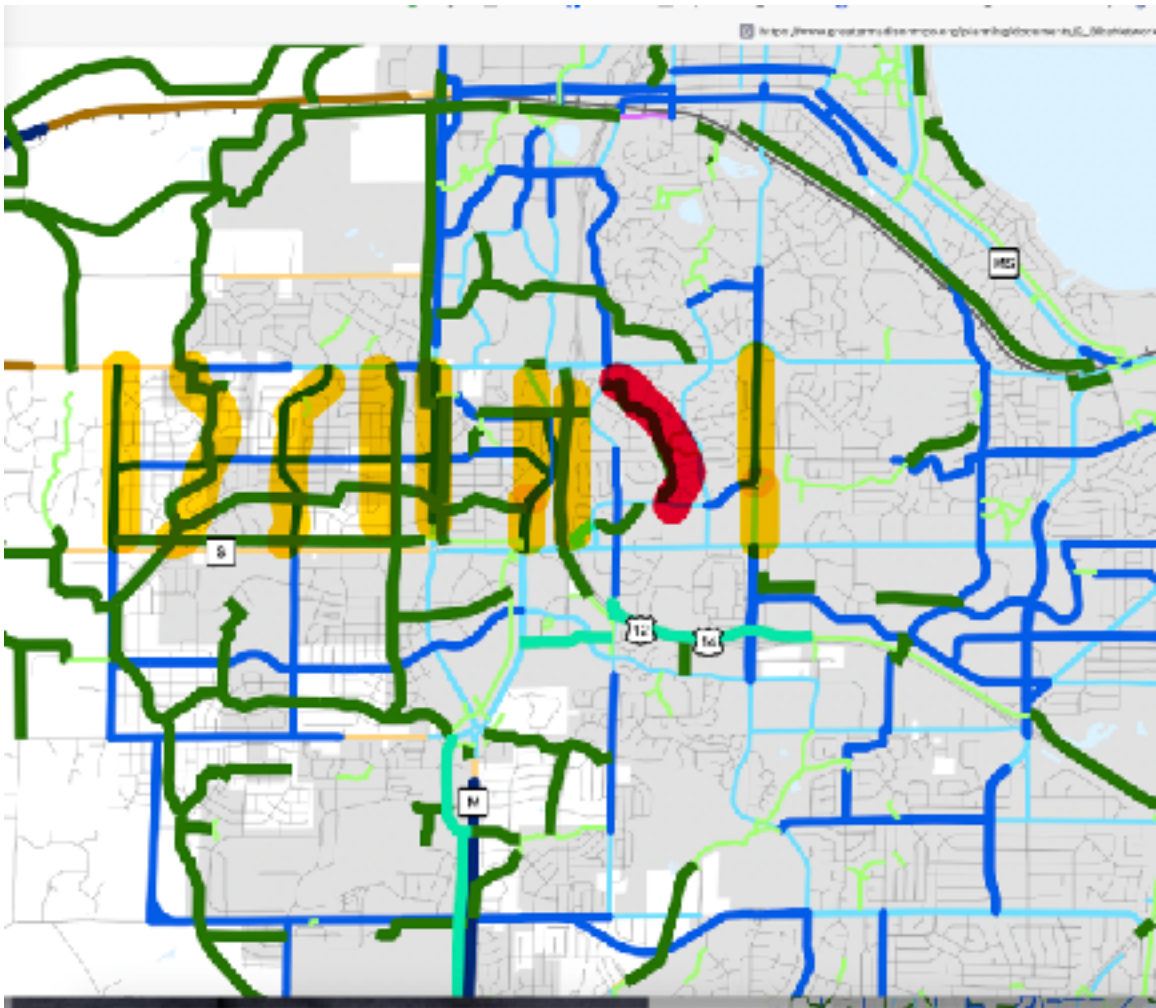
I'm also interested in the suggestion that this project might include a bike path because I am very interested in bicycling generally. For many years before my retirement, in good weather, I commuted by bike from this neighborhood the 8 miles to work on Capital Square and I still ride the same route to campus to audit UW classes. I've been a bicycling enthusiast for more than 50 years, I'm a member of the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation, and aside from lots of recreational riding and errand running in the Madison area, my wife and I plan many of our vacations around bicycling opportunities. The questions I have about a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway derive from this experience.

As I will describe in more detail below, it looks like a north-south bike path in this area would be of very little use or value to the bicycling community. I note too that the recent West Side Plan Survey shows only negative comments about the possibility of a bike path in the greenway, and these comments were the second highest multiplier in the entire survey (https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/WestPlan_Feedback_Summary_6-30-23.pdf)." This prompts my first question to you: **Has anyone other than city or county planning officials asked for this specific bike path?** Or is the proposed path being driven primarily by city planners' more general goal to "expand ... bicycle networks to enable safe and convenient active transportation" as expressed in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan strategy city officials cited in a recent public meeting? Creating better biking opportunities is certainly a laudable goal, but shouldn't the city prioritize projects that are useful and desired by the biking community? A Sauk Creek Greenway bike would be neither. And is a bike path

like the one under consideration - which doesn't connect to anything - really going to be part of any "bicycle network"? I don't think so.

I expect that anytime a municipality proposes to construct a new bike path in or adjacent to a long-established residential neighborhood there will be some controversy. I suppose too that it's less controversial where the proposed path would replace a motorized transportation route (like the Southwest bike path which replaced an active freight train route) or where, like the Pheasant Branch path, no homes back up to the path. In her October 2, 2023 letter to all of you my neighbor Jenny Iskandar spelled out a number of the concerns with a north-south bike path in the greenway, among them that any new path would cause additional loss of trees, would be redundant with existing bike routes on adjacent streets and would seem to serve no purpose as there's really nothing at either end for people to travel to and nothing special to see in between. My wife and I support those and all of her other concerns. I'd like to elaborate on two points.

As to redundancy, I have to wonder why there is any need for a new north-south bike path in a neighborhood like this which is already served by very nice bike lanes on the adjacent High Point Road and Westfield Road. And if you take a "bigger picture" view you will see what seems to me to be an extraordinary redundancy in planned north-south bike routes in our area. The "Madison Area Bicycle Network Plan" https://www.greatermadisonmpo.org/planning/documents/9_BikeNetworkPlan_Urban.pdf shows that in the approximate 2 1/2 miles from Gammon Road west to Pleasant View Road there are 9 existing or planned north/south bike routes connecting Mineral Point Road and Old Sauk Road. I've tried to depict that in a graphic below. **This appears to be a greater density of alternative routes than is proposed anywhere else in the city with the possible exception of an area east of the Interstate near Sun Prairie. Why?** And of those 9 alternatives, the proposed Sauk Creek Greenway route is the shortest and likely least practical - it doesn't seem to go anywhere useful for most commuters and wouldn't be some kind of scenic recreational biking destination like the Pheasant Branch or Capital City bike paths. **Why spend city money on something that's of such little value to bikers? Why should this bike path be a priority?**



Another consideration demonstrating that path's very limited value would be its **lack of connectivity**. In support of the project the city has suggested it would somehow enhance bicycling connectivity but that clearly appears not to be the case. At its north end the path would put riders back on the existing bike lane on High Point Road. On its south end, whether the trail head would be at Tree Lane on the existing service road or constructed somewhere in Haen Family Park, riders would have to go onto the existing Tree Lane bike lanes - there would be no path on the opposite side of the street to continue further west/upstream on the drainage way. And given a law enacted by our legislature during the Walker administration, the city will never be able to exercise eminent domain to acquire a right of way for a bike path along the drainage way where it crosses through the privately owned Greenbrier Village apartments property. For that reason such a path would never be connected to the short bike path the city built behind Rocky Rococo's several years ago - a bike path which itself is almost never used by

bikers because the only place it would direct riders westward requires crossing a busy on-ramp, a busy off-ramp, the busy Target Department Store driveway and the very busy Junction Road, all of which are hazardous for bikers. I expect a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway would be similarly unconnected, little used, and its construction a poor use of public moneys. **Aren't there better biking projects for the city to invest in?**

For example, in this neighborhood the safety of bicycle travel on High Point Road might be improved by putting "bicycle only" green lights at the Old Sauk Road crossing like the city has done at some intersections downtown. This would make biking to the Alicia Ashman Library or High Point Pool safer for kids from the Sauk Creek, Tree Lane and Oakbridge neighborhoods and for kids living north of Old Sauk Road to get to Tree Lane and from there to the Ezekiel Gillespie and Vel Phillips schools on Gammon Road. Another modest biking improvement project might be for the city to create a dedicated west-bound bike lane on Tree Lane as it already has on the east-bound side of that street - kids on their way home from school and other bikers wouldn't have to swerve around parked cars and into traffic. And I personally have long hoped for an alternative to the bike lanes on either side of Old Sauk Road which are heavily used by riders commuting to campus and the Square because I think they are dangerous - lots of fast cars which you can see drifting in and out of the bike lane in front of you - and because riding on them is unpleasant with all the car traffic and the killer climb westbound from Old Middleton Road. Improvements to that "connected" commuting route would be welcomed by many bikers. **Why not prioritize projects like these?**

I hope you will address these questions in correspondence or at our upcoming meetings. I hope too that after we've had those discussions the city will decide to pull the proposed Sauk Creek bike path from the West Area Plan. Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Dosch

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Tom Dosch <dosch@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:55 PM
To: alison tenbruggencate
Cc: Haas, Michael R; Horvath, Linda; Callaway, Renee; Zellers, Benjamin; Tao, Yang; Wolfe, James; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Conklin, Nikki; Veum, Eric; LVSipovic@gmail.com; Susan Bruegman; cindy schott; Donald Schott; Paul Herr; Britta Wunderlich-Herr; cgomezschmidt@tds.net; Sharon; Gayle Bush; Chris Jillings; Jackie Crum; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; Gwen Long; Benny and Jenny Iskandar; Tony D'Alessandro
Subject: Re: Community Request for Removal of Bike Path Construction from Sauk Creek Greenway Renovation Plans

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

I have to wonder if the "one resident in the Walnut Grove area who was in favor of a bike path" was a mountain bikini friend of mine who I know wrote in favor of the once-proposed-and-now defunct short mountain biking loop they were considering putting in Walnut Grove Park. Maybe no one in Walnut Grove has actually endorsed a bike path in the Greenway.

On Oct 25, 2023, at 8:54 AM, alison tenbruggencate <tenbruggencatealison@gmail.com> wrote:

<Remove Bike Path from Sauk Creek Greenway Planning.pdf>

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Tom Dosch <dosch@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:56 PM
To: alison tenbruggencate
Cc: Haas, Michael R; Horvath, Linda; Callaway, Renee; Zellers, Benjamin; Tao, Yang; Wolfe, James; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Conklin, Nikki; Veum, Eric; LVSipovic@gmail.com; Susan Bruegman; cindy schott; Donald Schott; Paul Herr; Britta Wunderlich-Herr; cgomezschmidt@tds.net; Sharon; Gayle Bush; Chris Jillings; Jackie Crum; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; Gwen Long; Benny and Jenny Iskandar; Tony D'Alessandro
Subject: Re: Community Request for Removal of Bike Path Construction from Sauk Creek Greenway Renovation Plans

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Mountain biking friend. Honest, this was an autocorrect error!

On Oct 25, 2023, at 5:54 PM, Tom Dosch <dosch@charter.net> wrote:

I have to wonder if the "one resident in the Walnut Grove area who was in favor of a bike path" was a mountain biking friend of mine who I know wrote in favor of the once-proposed-and-now defunct short mountain biking loop they were considering putting in Walnut Grove Park. Maybe no one in Walnut Grove has actually endorsed a bike path in the Greenway.

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<tenbruggencatealison@gmail.com> wrote:

<Remove Bike Path from Sauk Creek Greenway Planning.pdf>

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Ted Drewsen <ted.drewsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:48 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Wachter, Matthew
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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RE: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway because:

A. The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway; therefore **we have not had a true engagement process**. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were obtained and submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022-Legistar file 73264-

agenda number 1, and **new ones** will be attached to this agenda item; **27 + objections** were written to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023, after the neighborhoods first found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway Legistar file 79282 agenda item three. The neighborhoods were **never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway** when it was first introduced in Nov. 2, 2022 Legistar file 74436 agenda number and passed on January 3, 2023 Legistar file 74926 BEFORE the engagement process started in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, **69 other residents had/have concerns about a path** in the Sauk Creek greenway; in addition, **27 residents in the second phase two survey were against a path** compared to 6 who were for a path. Staff said in its memo that they continue to support this feedback. This does **not coincide** with the above numbers or other noted feedback.

B. The City planners claim that the path goes back 30+ years. THIS IS INCORRECT because the Park and Open Space plans do not apply to the Sauk Creek greenway, and the 2000 MPO Bike Plan said a Sauk Creek path was listed as a **third priority** given "suitable on-road routes exist". The 2015 MPO bike report said there is **not a bike gap** in the neighborhood and refers to the following roads that are within 1000+ feet of the greenway: Westfield Road, as primary bike

road and High Point Road, a secondary bike road. **Most importantly, this is the root document** that the City then used for other reports (2018 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and the neighborhood was not notified about it to have its voice heard. The neighborhood first heard about it at the March 2018 City Engineering meeting on the greenway.

C. City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents' concerns include that the path will cause safety concerns (dangerous), increase crime, lead to losing too many trees, does not connect to anything, negatively impacts wildlife, increase runoff, costs too much to build and maintain, and increases noise and litter. This is all true and these concerns were **summarily dismissed by City staff without substantive evidence to the contrary**. In addition, the staff **ignores strong environmental concerns** from residents, some of whom are scholars and researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other paths that staff mentions are not comparable for several reasons. Those paths did not require cutting down massive numbers of trees to build the paths; the other bike paths were plated before the homeowners acquired their lots; the paths are near commercial uses and not the 90% frontage of homes that abut the Sauk Creek greenway eliminating a buffer to the homes; the other paths are longer than .8 miles etc. The other paths did not cause significant animal displacement such as the coyotes, foxes, owls, deer, and birds that live in the Sauk Creek Greenway. I am saddened that the city of Madison does not see the value urban

forests. There is a great deal of value in keeping this urban forest as intact as possible to mitigate the effects of global warming as much as possible.

D. The City is incorporating in the streets "safe" bike paths per its *Complete Green Street Guide*, and it can avoid a bike path in the Sauk Creek area by using the **nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road**, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo. Also, city officials show that a bike path should connect in the Bike Network rendering to connect to High Point Road, just north of the future bike path across the beltline. It makes more sense to use a shared bike path on High Point Road rather than build an expensive bike path on the narrow Sauk Creek Greenway. High Point Road is also shown to connect to the south to a new bike path that will parallel the beltline.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City's Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**.

Thank you,

Edmond & Debra Drewsen
7621 Farmington Way

Madison, WI 53717
ted.drewsen@gmail.com
920-251-9640 (cell)

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Jenny Iskandar <jennyiskandar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:22 PM
To: Zellers, Benjamin
Cc: Haas, Michael R; Horvath, Linda; Callaway, Renee; Tao, Yang; Wolfe, James; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Conklin, Nikki; Veum, Eric; Lynch, Thomas; Sharon/Tom Dosch; Cindy Schott; Donald Schott; Britta Wunderlich-Herr; Sharon Dosch; Alison Tenbruggencate; gbjillings@gmail.com; cjjillings@gmail.com; Jackie Crum; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; Gwen Long; Benny and Jenny Iskandar; Paul Herr; Ellen Foley; Ginny White; Larry Sipovic; Damon Rygiewicz; Chris Gomez Schmidt; Susie Bruegman
Subject: Re: Follow up: Significant Concerns Regarding Proposed Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway

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Hello Ben,

You have repeatedly refused to meet with us.

Since your October 10 email, where you encouraged me to attend public meetings if I am "interested in further discussion of the West Area Plan", I have attended 3 such meetings, including the November 15th meeting you mentioned below.

The conclusion I and many others who patiently attended, is that the City is not interested in partnering with neighborhoods on projects that directly impact their immediate communities, and continues to be disingenuous about the information it's providing. Many people in attendance felt patronized by the answers you provided to their questions, especially that we were given no opportunity to respond back and correct your misstatements.

As the West Area Plan moves through the various commissions and the Common Council, we will do what we can to make sure our opposition to the Sauk Creek Greenway path and dissatisfaction with the planning process is heard.

Regards,

Jenny Iskandar
17 St Lawrence Circle
Madison

On Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 8:52 AM Zellers, Benjamin <BZellers@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello Jenny –

I hope you were able to attend last night's meeting and get some questions answered. We would certainly welcome the opportunity to discuss the West Area Plan with other associations beyond the Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association. If other associations would like to partner on setting up a meeting that would be great – there are about 35 associations in the West Area of varying sizes, so an opportunity to talk to multiple associations at once would be appreciated.

To clarify a few points on your request below, City staff does not approve a plan – we draft maps and text for review and approval by our boards/committees/commissions, and ultimately the Common Council has the final decision on plan approval. Path discussion is taking place as part of the West Area Plan because transportation is a component of our area planning efforts - it is important for us to consider transportation decisions as part of an interconnected network.

If there are associations that are partnering on a meeting to hear about the West Area Plan please let me know what the preferred date(s) may be and which associations are looking to participate so we can make sure we have West Area Plan team staff available to attend. Thank you,

- Ben

Ben Zellers, AICP, CNU-A

City of Madison Planning Division
608-266-4866

From: Jenny Iskandar <jennyiskandar@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:11 AM

To: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; Horvath, Linda <LHorvath@cityofmadison.com>; Callaway, Renee <ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Benjamin <BZellers@cityofmadison.com>; Tao, Yang <YTao@cityofmadison.com>; Wolfe, James <JWolfe@cityofmadison.com>; Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; Conklin, Nikki <district09@cityofmadison.com>; Veum, Eric <EVeum@cityofmadison.com>; Lynch, Thomas <TLynch@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Sharon/Tom Dosch <dosch@charter.net>; Cindy Schott <cindyschott@gmail.com>; Donald Schott <don.schott.ds@gmail.com>; Britta Wunderlich-Herr <britta@brittahomes.com>; Sharon Dosch <doschsj@gmail.com>; Alison Tenbruggencate <atenbruggencate@pinesbach.com>; gbjillings@gmail.com; cjillings@gmail.com; Jackie Crum <jrf@athletics.wisc.edu>; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; Gwen Long <gwenlong6@gmail.com>; Benny and Jenny Iskandar <bennyandjennyiskandar@gmail.com>; Paul Herr <peherr@chorus.net>; Ellen Foley <ellen.madaline@gmail.com>; Ginny White <ginnywerginwhite@gmail.com>; Larry Sipovic <LVSipovic@gmail.com>; Damon Rygiewicz <damon.rygiewicz@gmail.com>; Chris Gomez Schmidt <cgomezschmidt@tds.net>; Susie Bruegman <susan.bruegman@att.net>

Subject: Follow up: Significant Concerns Regarding Proposed Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway

November 13, 2023

From: Jenny and Bermans Iskandar, 17 St Lawrence Circle

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Mr. Lynch, Alder Conklin, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway

Re: Followup -- Significant concerns regarding proposed bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway

In our October 2nd letter (attached) we requested:

a meeting with city staff and property owners bordering the utility access road to discuss the planned path. In addition, since there is no urgent need for this path, we request that any further planning on this project be tabled until an agreement has been reached.

In Mr. Zeller's reply dated October 10, he encouraged us to

1. attend upcoming public meetings on the West Area Plan and
2. "to coordinate with the Sauk Creek Neighborhood association on whether they would like to include the West Area Plan presentation/discussion on their next agenda".

Our actions:

We attended the West Area plan focus group at Lussier on Wednesday, October 18th. In addition to 4-5 large maps of the west side there were 3 large posters describing the proposed path in the greenway. There were no other projects highlighted with posters. Seven of the ten residents in the room were there to discuss the greenway in general and the bike path more specifically. The facilitators wanted to talk about the whole west area plan, not the greenway and bike path. Even though the only specific plan highlighted in the posters was the bike path, the city staff in attendance were not equipped to answer our specific questions.

We attended the November 6 Sauk Creek Greenway Corridor Plan kick off meeting. The room was packed with residents interested in the Greenway restoration – it was obvious that the opposition to the bike path extends far beyond the neighboring property owners and included over 95% of attendees. The speakers started by establishing “ground rules” for the meeting, with the first rule being that **the bike path would not be discussed.** The word “not” was underlined. One question that was clearly answered on Monday night is that “If the West Area Plan includes a bike path, the Sauk Creek Greenway engineers will have to figure out how to include it.” The consensus of the audience was that the city is planning ***a bike path but wants no input from the neighborhood.***

As it happened, Renee Calloway was present at that meeting, so at the end many questions were directed to her. The group discussion started because of the significant discontent by the attendees that the city was being disingenuous. Renee knew of a bike path plan but could not give reasons that effectively countered the opposition in the room. In my discussion with her after the meeting, I suggested that the discontent and anger can be mitigated if the proposed bike path was removed from the West Area Plan and discussions about the path was assigned to the Sauk Creek Greenway planning process. Again, our interest is focused on a thoughtful and environmentally sound renovation of the greenway. Imposing a bike path is wrong for the many reasons already mentioned in the various letters (including ours) that our neighborhood sent you.

You have been invited to the November 15 Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting. We asked the Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association to schedule a meeting with the bordering property owners and city staff to discuss the proposed bike path. They have invited you and Jojo to their annual meeting on November 15 to discuss the West Area Plan and the Sauk Creek Greenway Plan. With only 20 minutes of questions to discuss both large projects, I doubt we will get much time to discuss the bike path, but **we will be there and will try again.**

Our Modified Request:

1. Since it is obvious the opposition to this proposal extends beyond our neighborhood, we request a meeting to discuss the proposed bike path with the **all** the neighborhoods of the Sauk Creek Greenway and the city staff involved in the planning and approval of the West Side Plan.
2. The bike path should be removed from the west area plan. Since the city has developed a detailed planning process for the Greenway, this logically should include discussions/decisions of bike path plan.

The greenway is a cherished part of our neighborhood. It is a place to enjoy and experience nature in its natural state. We understand that the creek needs to be shored up but we are concerned that this cherished part of our neighborhood will no longer be a sanctuary for the birds and animals AND a lovely slice of nature to be enjoyed and explored in our own neighborhood.

We look forward to your response.

Jenny and Bermans Iskandar

608-335-6666

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Jenny Iskandar <jennyiskandar@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 7:11 AM
To: Haas, Michael R; Horvath, Linda; Callaway, Renee; Zellers, Benjamin; Tao, Yang; Wolfe, James; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.; Conklin, Nikki; Veum, Eric; Lynch, Thomas
Cc: Sharon/Tom Dosch; Cindy Schott; Donald Schott; Britta Wunderlich-Herr; Sharon Dosch; Alison Tenbruggencate; gbjillings@gmail.com; cjjillings@gmail.com; Jackie Crum; Tcrum@strang-inc.com; Gwen Long; Benny and Jenny Iskandar; Paul Herr; Ellen Foley; Ginny White; Larry Sipovic; Damon Rygielwicz; Chris Gomez Schmidt; Susie Bruegman
Subject: Follow up: Significant Concerns Regarding Proposed Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway
Attachments: Bike Path Letter 10.2.23-2.docx; Bike Path Letter 10.2.23-2.docx

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

November 13, 2023

From: Jenny and Bermans Iskandar, 17 St Lawrence Circle

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Mr. Lynch, Alder Conklin, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway

Re: Followup -- Significant concerns regarding proposed bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway

In our October 2nd letter (attached) we requested:

a meeting with city staff and property owners bordering the utility access road to discuss the planned path. In addition, since there is no urgent need for this path, we request that any further planning on this project be tabled until an agreement has been reached.

In Mr. Zeller's reply dated October 10, he encouraged us to

1. attend upcoming public meetings on the West Area Plan and
2. "to coordinate with the Sauk Creek Neighborhood association on whether they would like to include the West Area Plan presentation/discussion on their next agenda".

Our actions:

We attended the West Area plan focus group at Lussier on Wednesday, October 18th. In addition to 4-5 large maps of the west side there were 3 large posters describing the proposed path in the greenway. There were no other projects highlighted with

posters. Seven of the ten residents in the room were there to discuss the greenway in general and the bike path more specifically. The facilitators wanted to talk about the whole west area plan, not the greenway and bike path. Even though the only specific plan highlighted in the posters was the bike path, the city staff in attendance were not equipped to answer our specific questions.

We attended the November 6 Sauk Creek Greenway Corridor Plan kick off meeting. The room was packed with residents interested in the Greenway restoration – it was obvious that the opposition to the bike path extends far beyond the neighboring property owners and included over 95% of attendees. The speakers started by establishing “ground rules” for the meeting, with the first rule being that **the bike path would not be discussed**. The word “not” was underlined. One question that was clearly answered on Monday night is that “If the West Area Plan includes a bike path, the Sauk Creek Greenway engineers will have to figure out how to include it.” The consensus of the audience was that the city is planning ***a bike path but wants no input from the neighborhood.***

As it happened, Renee Calloway was present at that meeting, so at the end many questions were directed to her. The group discussion started because of the significant discontent by the attendees that the city was being disingenuous. Renee knew of a bike path plan but could not give reasons that effectively countered the opposition in the room. In my discussion with her after the meeting, I suggested that the discontent and anger can be mitigated if the proposed bike path was removed from the West Area Plan and discussions about the path was assigned to the Sauk Creek Greenway planning process. Again, our interest is focused on a thoughtful and environmentally sound renovation of the greenway. Imposing a bike path is wrong for the many reasons already mentioned in the various letters (including ours) that our neighborhood sent you.

You have been invited to the November 15 Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association Meeting. We asked the Sauk Creek Neighborhood Association to schedule a meeting with the bordering property owners and city staff to discuss the proposed bike path. They have invited you and Jojo to their annual meeting on November 15 to discuss the West Area Plan and the Sauk Creek Greenway Plan. With only 20 minutes of questions to discuss both large projects, I doubt we will get much time to discuss the bike path, but **we will be there and will try again.**

Our Modified Request:

1. Since it is obvious the opposition to this proposal extends beyond our neighborhood, we request a meeting to discuss the proposed bike path with the **all** the neighborhoods of the Sauk Creek Greenway and the city staff involved in the planning and approval of the West Side Plan.
2. The bike path should be removed from the west area plan. Since the city has developed a detailed planning process for the Greenway, this logically should include discussions/decisions of bike path plan.

The greenway is a cherished part of our neighborhood. It is a place to enjoy and experience nature in its natural state. We understand that the creek needs to be shored up but we are concerned that this cherished part of our neighborhood will no longer be a sanctuary for the birds and animals AND a lovely slice of nature to be enjoyed and explored in our own neighborhood.

We look forward to your response.

Jenny and Bermans Iskandar
608-335-6666

October 2, 2023

From: Jenny and Bermans Iskandar
17 St. Lawrence Circle
Madison, WI 53717
jennyiskandar@gmail.com
(608) 335-6666

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Alder Conklin, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

Re: Significant concerns regarding proposed bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway

We and other families in the Sauk Creek neighborhood would like to express significant reservations concerning plans that have emerged to construct a paved path over the sewer maintenance access road on the western edge of the existing creek in the Sauk Creek Greenway. While we're concerned about the negative effects of such a path on our home, such a plan has much wider negative consequences to the neighborhood, including negative environmental impact and worsening neighborhood safety and noise. As importantly, such a path would have no obvious advantages to the community, it is ill-planned, duplicating existing paths, and it does not seem to have a real purpose. Lastly, we're especially concerned that the project was a recent surprise add-on with no attempt to seek feedback from the community.

Negative impact on our property and adjoining properties

Our property at 17 St. Lawrence Circle, along with the properties of a sizeable group of residents in our neighborhood, will be adversely impacted by a bike path as proposed. In our case, the path would turn 2 of the 3 borders of our pie-shaped lot to paved trails and is just 3 feet from our outdoor seating area and 30 feet from our back door, and the inlet would come within 1 foot of our side patio. In the photos, we placed mats where we think the path is supposed to go. Note that the mats are only 6 feet wide. The path would be much wider. In addition, the bike path is to be built over the sewer maintenance road. Twelve years ago, when the sewer access road was first proposed, it was to be paved. But after meetings and discussions with our community, the city decided to seed and sod the path to minimize the impact on adjoining



properties. We were appreciative of this decision and in return, have taken care to maintain the grassed-over road. Hence, it was greatly disappointing to learn of the current plans to not only pave over this road, but to expand its width, remove adjoining healthy mature trees, and possibly add lighting.



Negative impact on the environment

The **impact of paving over soil** is well known. Our sump pumps run continuously in the rain and spring thaw. We are concerned that the impact of significant additional runoff caused by impervious surfaces has not been considered in this plan. Considering the upcoming creek repair project, **the need to remove even more mature trees and pave this large swath of land adds to our concern about the wildlife** (deer, fox, owls, turkeys, ...) living in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

Negative impact on neighborhood noise and safety

The insult of paving this green space is aggravated by increased litter, dog waste, noise, and inducement for trespassing. Our neighborhood has had break-ins in which the perpetrators accessed houses through the greenway. In some instances, the retreat was impeded by the lack of clear ingress and egress. The path being proposed would give potential burglars easy access

to all our backyards. There have also been incidents of voyeurism. Building a path within 30 feet of our back door would allow more of these problems to occur.

Lack of sensible bike path purpose and lack of advantage to the neighborhood

There is no gap in the existing bike path network in our neighborhood. Identifying a gap should be a fundamental criterion to building additional paths. One look at the map on the August 2nd boards reveals how redundant it is. It is a short trail to literally nowhere, and it runs parallel to, and in some instances, is located within one block of, two major bike routes – High Point and Westfield Roads. These routes already connect to many destinations, including West Towne Mall, grocery stores, restaurants, the library, the schools, the new BRT line, and Haen, Walnut Grove and Sauk Creek Parks. This greenway path does not add any connections or destinations to our neighborhood bike network.

Lack of Community Input

We attended the West Area Plan meeting on May 10th and noted that there was no discussion and no boards depicting a bike path in the greenway. At the August 2nd West Area Plan meeting, someone from city engineering told our neighbors, that a bike path **will most likely be built** over the storm sewer maintenance road

(https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/WestPlan_2023-08-02_Boards_c.pdf). Unlike 12 years ago, when we were invited to engage in the conversation about the sewer access road, we did not get a postcard about the project, nor did we have a chance to comment. The boards presented at the August 2nd meeting did not include the impact on bordering properties or the need to seek input from property owners as issues to be considered.

Not surprisingly, the **West Side Plan Survey shows only negative comments about the possibility of a bike path in the greenway**, and these comments were the second highest multiplier in the entire survey

(https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/WestPlan_Feedback_Summary_6-30-23.pdf).

And it is important to remember that the West Side Plan is supposed to cover the entire west side of Madison, not just our neighborhood. So, we're perplexed by the fact that this duplicative short path with no obvious purpose is the **ONLY** specific project highlighted on the August 2nd boards

(https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/WestPlan_2023-08-02_Boards_c.pdf).

Waste of tax-payer money

We are major stakeholders in this project. And yet, we have not heard from the city about it. The city is giving serious consideration to expending taxpayer dollars on a redundant, short and insignificant path that aggrieves a large majority of the residents of the area it is supposed to serve. Moreover, the proposed path would present a long-term maintenance and possibly even

electricity cost. These are costs that the area residents have not asked for. **This money should be allocated to real gaps and safety updates needed elsewhere in the west side bike network.**

All Ages and Abilities

We understand and applaud the desire of the city to create paths for **All Ages and Abilities**. In fact, our neighborhood should be viewed as a model for “all ages and abilities” biking and walking in the city. The sidewalks, cul-de-sacs, and of course the greenspace, make this neighborhood very walkable and runnable. On any given day, year-round, we see children walking to a friend’s home, parents jogging with a stroller, people walking a dog, athletes out for a run, and people of all ages getting some exercise.

We raised 2 children here. Our kids first learned to bike on our cul-de-sac, then transitioned to the sidewalks on Sauk Creek Drive (perfect way to teach about crossing streets and driveways), then to the streets using Sauk Creek Drive and the neighboring cul-de-sacs, then to the bike lanes on High Point and Tree Lane. In addition, the existing path through Walnut Grove Park, which includes hills and curves to maneuver, and the underutilized spur behind Walgreens, have been perfect places for children to practice biking.

Request

As long-time residents, we encourage sound public projects in our neighborhood. While it may be well-intentioned, this project lacks planning and foresight, is disruptive, and accordingly, is not supported by the neighborhood. **We request a meeting with city staff and property owners bordering the utility access road to discuss the planned path. In addition, since there is no urgent need for this path, we request that any further planning on this project be tabled until an agreement has been reached.**

Thank you for your attention. We eagerly anticipate your response.

Jenny and Bermans Iskandar

CC: Our Sauk Creek Neighbors

Tom and Sharon Dosch, 13 St. Lawrence Circle

Alison TenBruggencate and Tony D’Alessandro, 14 St. Lawrence Circle

Jackie and Tim Crum, 10 St. Lawrence Circle

Chris Jillings and Gayle Bush, 6 St Lawrence Circle

Paul Herr and Britta Wunderlich-Herr, 14 E. Geneva Circle

Don and Cindy Schott, 18 E. St Lawrence Circle

Gwen and Jim Long, 225 Sauk Creek Drive

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Jennifer Morgan <jbmorgan@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 2:13 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan.**

I live on N High Point and bike a great deal in this neighborhood. I do not see any need for a bike path through that wooded area, as High Point, Westfield, Tree Lane and Old Sauk all have good bike lanes. I do not see a need to remove any more of what remains of that wooded area to create an unneeded bike path after the needed maintenance is done for drainage. I love biking and the many paths available in Madison, but this one is not necessary, and would further displace the animals and birds that make a home there.

Please remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan!

Thank you,
Jennifer Morgan

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Patrick Rindfleisch <porindfleisch@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:35 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Stouder, Heather; Wachter, Matthew; All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway because:

A. The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway; therefore **we have not had a true engagement process**. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were obtained and submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022-Legistar file 73264-agenda number 1, and **new ones** will be attached to this agenda item; **27 + objections** were written to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023, after the neighborhoods first found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway Legistar file 79282 agenda item three. The neighborhoods were **never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway** when it was first introduced on Nov. 2, 2022 Legistar file 74436 agenda number and passed on January 3, 2023 Legistar file 74926 BEFORE the engagement process started in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, **69 other residents had/have concerns about a path** in the Sauk Creek greenway; in addition, **27 residents in the second phase two survey were against a path** compared to 6 who were for a path. Staff said in its memo that they continue to support this feedback. This does **not coincide** with the above numbers or other noted feedback.

B. **The City planners claim that the path goes back 30+ years. THIS IS INCORRECT** because the Park and Open Space plans do not apply to the Sauk Creek greenway, and the 2000 MPO Bike Plan said a Sauk Creek path was listed as a **third priority** given “suitable on-road routes exist”. The 2015 MPO bike report said there is **not a bike gap** in the neighborhood and refers to the following roads that are within 1000+ feet of the greenway: Westfield Road, as primary bike road and High Point Road, a secondary bike road. **Most importantly, this is the root document** that the City then used for other reports (2018 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and the neighborhood was not notified about it to have its voice heard. The neighborhood first heard about it at the March 2018 City Engineering meeting on the greenway.

C. City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents' concerns include that the path will cause safety concerns (dangerous), increase crime, lead to losing too many trees, does not connect to anything, negatively impacts wildlife, increase runoff, costs too much to build and maintain, and increases noise and litter. This is all true and these concerns were **summarily dismissed by City staff without substantive evidence to the contrary**. In addition, the staff **ignores strong environmental concerns** from residents, some of whom are scholars and researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other paths that staff

mentions are not comparable for several reasons. Those paths did not require cutting down massive numbers of trees to build the paths; the other bike paths were platted before the homeowners acquired their lots; the paths are near commercial uses and not the 90% frontage of homes that abut the Sauk Creek greenway eliminating a buffer to the homes; the other paths are longer than .8 miles etc. The other paths did not cause significant animal displacement such as the coyotes, foxes, owls, deer, and birds that live in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

D. The City is incorporating in the streets “safe” bike paths per its Complete Green Street Guide, and it can avoid a bike path in the Sauk Creek area by using the **nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road**, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo. Also, city officials show that a bike path should connect in the Bike Network rendering to connect to High Point Road, just north of the future bike path across the beltline. It makes more sense to use a shared bike path on High Point Road rather than build an expensive bike path on the narrow Sauk Creek Greenway. High Point Road is also shown to connect to the south to a new bike path that will parallel the beltline.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City’s Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**.

Thank you,

Patrick & Jennifer Rindfleisch
14 Canvasback Circle

Sent from my iPhone

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Mike Schmidt <mfschmidt1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Stouder, Heather; All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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

Dear City of Madison Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting. My wife and I are long term residents in the Madison area, but only recently moved to the Sauk Creek Neighborhood. We chose our home and neighborhood largely because of the Sauk Creek Greenway. We are also long time bikers, logging many miles on the bike paths in the Madison area and around the state every year. That being said, my wife and I are against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway **and urge the commission to remove it from the West Area Plan.**

I attended a West Area focus group meeting back in October. While there was much discussion about retaining the natural beauty of the Sauk Creek Greenway for the enjoyment of residents and protection of the natural environment and wildlife, nothing was mentioned about a wide lighted impervious surface bike path. We already have far too much concrete and asphalt in our city and far too few trees and natural areas. Adding an expensive bike path in a location where it would add to that disparity seems both ludicrous and unnecessary, especially when there are perfectly safe bike lanes available on nearby low traffic streets.

The proposed bike path would lead to the loss of precious trees and plants, disturb wildlife, reduce property values and increase runoff. There are also increased safety concerns, potential for crime, noise and litter in our neighborhood caused by the added traffic, as well the high cost to build and maintain a path. In short we feel there is no need for a path and a lot of valid reasons not to support it.

We moved to Madison from the Town of Dunn, which has long supported maintaining a natural environment over needless construction and development. My wife and I would urge you to follow that example by removing the proposed bike path from the West Area plan.

Best regards,

Michael Schmidt
Sharon Schoolmeesters
7629 Farmington Way
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 698-3598

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Ellen Schneiderman <ejks73@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 7:32 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Stouder, Heather; Wachter, Matthew; All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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

RE: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting. I strongly urge the commission to remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bike path from the West Area Plan. I am adamantly opposed to a bike path being constructed in the auk Creek Greenway.

The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback from constituents against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway and we have not had a true engagement process. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022 (Legistar file 73264 agenda number 1) and additional signatures be attached to this agenda item. More than two dozen written objections were submitted to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023 after the Sauk Creek residents found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway (Legistar file 79282 agenda number 3). Additionally, the area residents were never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway when it was introduced on Nov. 2, 2022 (Legistar file 74436) and subsequently passed on January 3, 2023 (Legistar file 74926), all prior to the engagement process beginning in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, 69 area residents expressed concerns about a path in the Sauk Creek greenway. 27 additional residents were agains the path in the second phase two survey while just six residents indicated support.

City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents', have concerns regarding the proposed path including: safety, increased crime, loss of trees, negative impact to wildlife, increased runoff, increased noise and litter, and excessive cost for construction and maintenance. These concerns seem to have been summarily dismissed by city staff.

The City is incorporating in the streets “safe” bike paths per its Complete Green Street Guide, and it can avoid the redundancy of a bike path in the Sauk Creek greenway by using the nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall, and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road (per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo).

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a Sauk Creek greenway bike path from the West Area Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

-Ellen Schneiderman
Brule Circle

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Brian S. <bgswis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang
Cc: Wachter, Matthew; Stouder, Heather; All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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Dear Plan Commission:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway because:

A. The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway; therefore **we have not had a true engagement process**. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were obtained and submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022-Legistar file 73264-agenda number 1, and **new ones** will be attached to this agenda item; **27 + objections** were written to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023, after the neighborhoods first found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway Legistar file 79282 agenda item three. The neighborhoods were **never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway** when it was first introduced on Nov. 2, 2022 Legistar file 74436 agenda number and passed on January 3, 2023 Legistar file 74926 BEFORE the engagement process started in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, **69 other residents had/have concerns about a path** in the Sauk Creek greenway; in addition, **27 residents in the second phase two survey were against a path** compared to 6 who were for a path. Staff said in its memo that they continue to support this feedback. This does **not coincide** with the above numbers or other noted feedback.

B. **The City planners claim that the path goes back 30+ years. THIS IS INCORRECT** because the Park and Open Space plans do not apply to the Sauk Creek greenway, and the 2000 MPO Bike Plan said a Sauk Creek path was listed as **a third priority** given “suitable on-road routes exist”. The 2015 MPO bike report said there is **not a bike gap** in the neighborhood and refers to the following roads that are within 1000+ feet of the greenway: Westfield Road, as primary bike road and High Point Road, a secondary bike road. **Most importantly, this is the root document** that the City then used for other reports (2018 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and the neighborhood was not notified about it to have its voice heard. The neighborhood first heard about it at the March 2018 City Engineering meeting on the greenway.

C. City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents' concerns include that the path will cause safety concerns (dangerous), increase crime, lead to losing too many trees, does not connect to anything, negatively impacts wildlife, increase runoff, costs too much to build and maintain, and increases noise and litter. This is all true and these concerns were **summarily dismissed by City staff without substantive evidence to the contrary**. In addition, the staff **ignores strong environmental concerns** from residents, some

of whom are scholars and researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other paths that staff mentions are not comparable for several reasons. Those paths did not require cutting down massive numbers of trees to build the paths; the other bike paths were platted before the homeowners acquired their lots; the paths are near commercial uses and not the 90% frontage of homes that abut the Sauk Creek greenway eliminating a buffer to the homes; the other paths are longer than .8 miles etc. The other paths did not cause significant animal displacement such as the coyotes, foxes, owls, deer, and birds that live in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

D. The City is incorporating in the streets “safe” bike paths per its Complete Green Street Guide, and it can avoid a bike path in the Sauk Creek area by using the **nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road**, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo. Also, city officials show that a bike path should connect in the Bike Network rendering to connect to High Point Road, just north of the future bike path across the beltline. It makes more sense to use a shared bike path on High Point Road rather than build an expensive bike path on the narrow Sauk Creek Greenway. High Point Road is also shown to connect to the south to a new bike path that will parallel the beltline.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City’s Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**.

Thank you,

Brian Shore

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Sue Stark <sstark7060@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 3:36 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: Fw: RE: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

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RE: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path

Dear Alders in the City of Madison:

I am writing regarding the above matter to be discussed at the Dec. 7 Plan Commission meeting and urge the commission to **remove the Sauk Creek Greenway bikepath from the West Area Plan**. I am against a bike path in the 26-acre heavily wooded (5000+ trees) and narrow Sauk Creek Greenway because:

A. The City and our Alder have ignored significant feedback against a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway; therefore **we have not had a true engagement process**. A bike path was not mentioned, discussed, or shown in any slides at the first four West Area public meetings.

Numerous petitions were obtained and submitted at the Common Council meeting on Nov. 15, 2022-Legistar file 73264-agenda number 1, and **new ones** will be attached to this agenda item; **27 + objections** were written to the Transportation Commission for its meeting on Aug. 8, 2023, after the neighborhoods first found out a path was shown in the Complete Street Guide while the engagement process was underway Legistar file 79282 agenda item three. The neighborhoods were **never informed of the inclusion of a bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway** when it was first introduced on Nov. 2, 2022 Legistar file 74436 agenda number and passed on January 3, 2023 Legistar file 74926 BEFORE the engagement process started in February 2023.

Per the first phase planning survey, **69 other residents had/have concerns about a path** in the Sauk Creek greenway; in addition, **27 residents in the second phase two survey were against a path** compared to 6 who were for a path. Staff

said in its memo that they continue to support this feedback. This does **not coincide** with the above numbers or other noted feedback.

B. The City planners claim that the path goes back 30+ years. THIS IS INCORRECT because the Park and Open Space plans do not apply to the Sauk Creek greenway, and the 2000 MPO Bike Plan said a Sauk Creek path was listed as **a third priority** given “suitable on-road routes exist”. The 2015 MPO bike report said there is **not a bike gap** in the neighborhood and refers to the following roads that are within 1000+ feet of the greenway: Westfield Road, as primary bike road and High Point Road, a secondary bike road. **Most importantly, this is the root document** that the City then used for other reports (2018 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and the neighborhood was not notified about it to have its voice heard. The neighborhood first heard about it at the March 2018 City Engineering meeting on the greenway.

C. City staff mentioned in its memo to you for your Dec. 7 meeting that residents' concerns include that the path will cause safety concerns (dangerous), increase crime, lead to losing too many trees, does not connect to anything, negatively impacts wildlife, increase runoff, costs too much to build and maintain, and increases noise and litter. This is all true and these concerns were **summarily dismissed by City staff without substantitive evidence to the contrary**. In addition, the staff **ignores strong environmental concerns** from residents, some of whom are scholars and researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other paths that staff mentions are not comparable for several reasons. Those paths did not require cutting down massive numbers of trees to build the paths; the other bike paths were platted before the homeowners acquired their lots; the paths are near commercial uses and not the 90% frontage of homes that abut the Sauk Creek greenway eliminating a buffer to the homes; the other paths are longer than .8 miles etc. The other paths did not cause significant animal displacement such as the coyotes, foxes, owls, deer, and birds that live in the Sauk Creek Greenway.

D. The City is incorporating in the streets “safe” bike paths per its Complete Green Street Guide, and it can avoid a bike path in the Sauk Creek area by using the **nearby High Point Road or Westfield Road**, both of which directly connect to the new BRT stations, Westfield Road, West Town Mall and the future connection across the beltline to Watts Road per WAP street rendering in the Dec. 7 memo. Also, city officials show that a bike path should connect in the Bike Network rendering to connect to High Point Road, just north of the future bike path across the beltline. It makes more sense to use a shared bike path on High Point Road rather than build an expensive bike path on the narrow Sauk Creek Greenway. High Point Road is also shown to connect to the south to a new bike path that will parallel the beltline.

In summary, I am asking that you inform the City West Area planning team to remove a bike path from the West Area Plan, which goes against the **City’s Civic Engagement, Equity and Stewardship Values**. Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

Thank you,
Mary Susan Stark
7433 Farmington Way
Madison, WI. 53717-1311

Please do not destroy the redonda why we built our homes on these sacred woods!

Alison TenBruggencate
Tony D'Alessandro
14 St. Lawrence Circle
Madison, WI 53717
608-219-1131
tenbruggencatealison@gmail.com
tony@surgery.wisc.edu
Sent via email

October 25, 2023

Attention: Ms. Callaway, Ms. Horvath, Mr. Zellers, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Stouder, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Tao, Mr. Haas, Mr. Veum, Alder Conklin, Mayor Rhodes-Conway

Re: Community Request for Removal of Bike Path Construction from Sauk Creek Greenway Renovation Plans

Dear Ms. Callaway, et al.,

This letter is to request that plans for a bike path be removed from plans for the Sauk Creek Greenway renovation (Greenway Plan). As you are aware, there is a kick-off meeting regarding Sauk Creek Greenway project planning scheduled for November 6th at which members of the Sauk Creek Greenway community hoped to get much sought-after clarification of the planning. Until recently, community focus has been on protecting the urban woods we all cherish through the use of sound forestry and animal-friendly measures to restore the Greenway stream and urban forest. For several years we have had to resist 'over-engineered' proposals for the Greenway restoration, which included grass banks necessitating extensive tree removal, the installation of streetlamps, mountain bike paths, and wide paved walking paths. Until recently, we had thought these proposals had been tabled and looked forward to constructive engagement in the planning to restore the Greenway. We had hoped we were finally on the same page with the city.

Unfortunately, this appears to have come to an end. Without any notice or request for resident input, another set of plans for a bike path in the Greenway emerged at a meeting on July 17th. Justifications for the plan, labeled 'Opportunities', did not connect to what we saw on the display boards. None of the justifications appeared to apply to the proposal.

There was mention of one resident in the Walnut Grove area who was in favor of a bike path, yet who interestingly would not derive benefit from the proposed location of the path, but there was no mention of the widespread opposition to a bike path in the Greenway. If the city derives a sense of growing apprehension from our community, it stems from a perception that our access to information is being manipulated.

Now, our attention must be diverted once again to a bike path which appears to have taken on a life of its own, and, worse yet, does not appear to be integrated in the Greenway restoration planning. Indeed, there is an indication that it may be installed ahead of and irrespective of the Greenway restoration. There does not appear to be regard for forestry preservation, the impact of lights on wildlife, and excessive runoff caused by paving. And we were advised yesterday that there is no intention to address our concerns and questions concerning the bike path at the upcoming meeting on November 6th.

This places us in an untenable position. It is impossible to focus on one aspect of Greenway planning in isolation of other plans for the corridor. The Greenway is just not that big. I echo the concerns raised by my fellow Greenspace residents, Jenny Iskandar and Tom Dosch. There is simply no urgency or use for a bike path in this location. The path would be redundant to two already existing near-by parallel bike routes. It would be a brief side-track, not practically accessible, and not functional in terms of access to parks, bus lines, schools, etc. It is perplexing that the city would give such priority to a plan of such little benefit to bikers. More concerning, the bike path depicted on the display boards at the July 17th meeting clearly would entail more disruption and upheaval in the Greenway than will already occur with the restoration, particularly since the plans do not appear to be integrated.

Therefore, foremost, we respectfully request that all plans for a bike path be removed from all plans for the Sauk Creek Greenway. We further request that you advise us as to when we will be able to see a comprehensive plan for the Greenway, and when such plans are to be brought before the Planning Commission.

Thank you very much. We appreciate your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Alison TenBruggencate and Tony D'Alessandro

Matthias, Isaac L

From: Alison Tenbruggencate <atenbruggencate@pinesbach.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:05 PM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Wachter, Matthew; Stouder, Heather; All Alders
Subject: Legistar File Number 81028, Agenda Number 3, Discussion Item Number 9-Sauk Creek Greenway Shared Use Path
Attachments: Letter to City Planning Commission Opposing Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway 12-5-23, Legistar File No. 81028, Agenda Item No. 3, Discussion Item No. 9.pdf

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Matthias, Isaac L

From: Larry and Ginny White <lgwhites@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Plan Commission Comments; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Lynch, Thomas; Tao, Yang; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Wachter, Matthew; Baumel, Christie; Brown, Ian K.
Subject: Oppose Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway

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Dear Commissioners and City Officials: **Have you personally visited the 26-acre Sauk Creek Greenway?** If not, with all due respect, you haven't done due diligence on the question of a paved, shared-use path in the greenway. Simply reviewing maps and reading staff memos is insufficient preparation for such a consequential decision.

Our earth is in crisis. Governments should be conserving as much green space and tree canopy as possible to mitigate the effects of climate change. But in Madison, city planners are conducting business as usual. They're promoting a plan that was first proposed in 1991--and rendered irrelevant by today's climate crisis.

Planners see the greenway as a mere "transportation corridor" and are dismissive of residents who object to a bicycle path. Immediate neighbors have personal concerns about privacy and security. But they and hundreds of others cherish the greenway as an environmental asset that contributes to everyone's quality of life. Sauk Creek Greenway is one of precious few remaining natural spaces in Madison. It helps mitigate the effects of climate change and provides habitat for animals, birds and wildflowers.

The planning process itself has been disillusioning because of the city's indifference to citizen concerns. Planners asked for feedback on a proposed bike path, residents objected and now the planners are proceeding with their own vision and priorities. They're applying the same three-step protocol they've used in other Madison neighborhoods: (1) Ask for input on plans, (2) receive well-supported criticism from property owners and (3) ignore it. Owners are expected to pay ever higher property taxes and fees every year, while ceding control over their own neighborhoods.

We're urging you to consider the long-term effects of a paved, shared-use path in the Sauk Creek Greenway. It will be bad for the environment, it will reinforce residents' feelings of being marginalized and it will provoke continuing conflict with City Hall. Please exercise your independent judgment and stop this ill-advised plan.

Respectfully,

Ginny and Larry White
71 Oak Creek Trail
Madison 53717
608-821-0056

