

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [BPW Agenda](#)
Subject: FW: Lake Mendota Drive Project
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 5:41:31 PM

Please attach to Legistar File # 70626.

Thank you,
Debbie
Council Office
266-4297

From: Scallon, Peggy
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 5:34 PM
To: All Alders
Subject: Re: Lake Mendota Drive Project

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

Project #70626
Please register comments.
Thank you!
Peggy Scallon

From: Scallon, Peggy
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:53:14 PM
To: allalders@cityofmadison.com <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive Project

April 18, 2022

Dear City of Madison Alders:

Thank you for offering your attention to the Lake Mendota Drive project. We have hope that this meeting tonight will be different from the previous meetings about this project in which the City's approach has been top-down & paternalistic, and neighbors have not been listened to.

We do not want sidewalks and the road design as it is proposed by the current City plan. We have given many reasons for this, and many good alternatives. And City staff come back and insist on sidewalks on both sides. "Because this is how we do it when we re-do streets." But our proximity to the lake and the historical and cultural significance of this parkway should signal that we should not take a cookie cutter approach to this project.

At a minimum, please listen to us and install sidewalks on **one** side of the street, but not two sides as is currently proposed from Capital Ave to Norman Way. Sidewalks on both sides are not necessary, and the increased paving, salting and tree loss would make this a devastating choice. And they are not necessary. There have been no safety concerns on Lake Mendota Drive. Wouldn't the City's money be better spent in areas where residents have actually been unsafe? There are already existing sidewalks on both sides close to the school.

We should also have an environmental impact study to learn what this proposal will mean for Lake Mendota, the adjoining trees and habitat and Well 14. Why the rush? We need to be stewards of the lake and the watershed and the historical and cultural significance of this land, which was sacred to the Ho Chunk Nation. The tree canopy here is beautiful and provides a natural sense of repose for all to enjoy. If this project is rushed and the natural environment is not honored, it will be gone for

generations, if not forever. Death by a thousand cuts.

I also want to mention that Alderman Furman has not represented the majority of neighbors who are not in favor of this plan. He has been contemptuous of our voices, he has obfuscated this process, despite what he says about his blog, and he has even gone so far as to use City staff time to repeatedly go out and remove harmless, informational signs from neighbors' yards that provide links to the neighborhood survey and ways to get involved.

He has the City Building Inspector then send emails that defend his actions. Surely the City Building Inspector has more important things to do than send emails about keeping signs out of the right-of-way, especially when other advertising signs are left in place. He simply does not represent the wishes or suggestions of the neighborhood and he tries to silence our ideas and our voices.

My bottom-line requests are two-fold:

1. Slow down the timeline for this project.
2. But if you won't slow it down, at a minimum, please compromise by putting in sidewalks on one side only, but certainly not installing them on both sides from Capital Ave to Norman Way, as is currently proposed.

I would ask that the Common Council consider that as public officials, it is your job to balance a variety of interests, and not just promote one agenda. Who speaks for the owls in the trees, or the shade that the trees provide, or the ducks, birds and fish as well as swimmers, boaters, and kayakers?

Please listen to our suggestions and our input.

Why the rush? Slow down this project. This street is unique and has ecological and cultural significance. The plan as it is proposed has excessive and unnecessary paving, tree loss and will forever change the character of this beautiful neighborhood. And we have an opportunity to improve the quality of Lake Mendota through updated green infrastructure, and instead we are taking a step backwards. We ask that you listen to neighbors' voices in this process. Alderman Furman and the City staff have not represented our concerns or our views.

Sincerely,

Peggy Scallon

5536 Lake Mendota Drive

Peggyscallon@gmail.com