

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: No to Chicago Ave cut-throughs
Date: Sunday, October 8, 2023 2:21:37 PM

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Dear Transportation Commission,

The materials for item 80278 show a proposed extension of Chicago Ave from Fair Oaks across Starkweather Creek to connect with the planned development, and the staff report mentions future plans to extend Chicago Ave further, across more of the Starkweather Park wetlands, to connect to W Corporate Drive. I urge you to reject both of these connections, at least for motor vehicle traffic.

We have a lot of neighborhoods where we constructed through-connections out of an indecisiveness about how people will use the neighborhood and how they'll want to enter/leave it. We've seen how this creates cut-through opportunities, and in the span of just a few years, we wind up having to install speed humps in places like North Star Dr. This is no different.

The connection of Chicago Ave to Walter St will form a cut-through to bypass the Milwaukee / Fair Oaks intersection, and from there through Walter Street down to Atwood. This cut-through will not contribute much for the residents of the new development; it will just add through-traffic to residential streets, and make these new streets less safe.

The eventual connection to Corporate Drive will create another cut-through opportunity, to bypass Milwaukee entirely and get all the way across to/from 51. This would bring yet more traffic through the residential areas of this planned development. And it would come at the expense of park / natural land.

Both Starkweather Creek and Starkweather Park represent crucial areas for wildlife and biodiversity. Carving them up with high traffic roads creates what ecologists call a "[moving fence](#)" that animals--even songbirds--have trouble crossing.

To be clear, I am in favor of bringing more housing and more neighbors to my neighborhood. But the extension of Chicago Ave is a bad aspect of this plan.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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