

**From:** [Mya Starling](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Figueroa Cole, Yannette](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 8 (90498) - Opposition to City Options  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:17:15 PM

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I strongly oppose this project and how it has been shoved down the neighborhood's throat. I have lived in this neighborhood for 10 years and Pontiac trail has been in a state of disrepair since before the day I looked at my current house. Now, rather than what our neighborhood actually needs, the street to be repaired and resurfaced, the city has a bee in its bonnet that we need a "rural-to-urban reconstruction". That we need our neighborhood to be urbanized. That our neighborhood needs to be homogenized into bland suburban mediocrity by removing a keystone feature that makes our neighborhood special.

As I have seen many other times with our city government, the process is to tell us what they are going to do and then force compliance and acceptance.

I attended the two "informational meetings". In the first, the commission claimed to care about our feedback, and for the second one, they forced two options on us – the current width with sidewalk on both sides, or an even wider street with sidewalk on both sides and gave us a survey that - as a former survey administrator with 14 years' experience – I can assert would only produce misleading results in their favor (we had to rank each option separately with each being 'support', 'can live with it' or 'oppose' rather than ranking the two "solutions" together along with community-suggested options).

There are a large number of us residents who oppose this project and oppose this top-down authoritarian process. It was dismaying to hear one of the engineers doubling down on two sidewalks repeatedly because "they fit" – this is not about sidewalks "fitting." This is about the character of our neighborhood. This is about enjoying the rural road that is Pontiac Trail in the middle of Madison's ever-increasing embracing of urban concrete. This is about the green spaces in our neighborhood that city bureaucrats never cared about save for a visit to plan how to carve it up.

We are more than willing to negotiate with the city. There are residents who want no sidewalk, residents who are OK with sidewalk on only one side, residents who are OK with sidewalk on both sides only on the more heavily traveled part of Pontiac but one sidewalk on the quieter side. But the city will entertain none of it.

What is even more dismaying is the inaction and apathy from our elected representative Alder Figueroa-Cole who is not representing us. The bare minimum of what she should be doing in this process is to work with the neighborhood. Get an understanding of what our concerns are. How many people are in favor of the proposed plans, alternate plans, and negotiate with the city. Act as a liaison between the neighborhood and the city government bureaucrats and actually represent us. We will remember this in 2026.

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