

**Dailey, Janet**

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**From:** Kevin Possell [possell@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2009 2:56 PM  
**To:** Dailey, Janet  
**Subject:** FW: Blackhawk Rd Reconstruction: Potentially Madison's Bridge to No Where

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Subject: Blackhawk Rd Reconstruction: Potentially Madison's Bridge to No Where  
Date: Fri, 22 May 2009 19:43:03 +0000

Dear City Council,

Please review the attached letter and contact those with direct control over this project. Lets make sure we make a data based decision that passes the common sense test of investment versus return. Then, let's make sure the cost is appropriately allocated to those reaping the return.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kevin Possell  
9409 Blackhawk Road  
City of Madison  
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To: The citizens and officials of the great city of Madison  
Date: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Subject:           Blackhawk Road Reconstruction:  
                          Madison's Bridge to No Where**

What if I told you the City of Madison was going to spend close to a **half million tax dollars** to construct a **less than 1 mile bike lane** to NO WHERE?

If someone told me this in these economic times, I would say they are exaggerating. However, after attending the public hearing before the Madison Board of Public Works May 20, it appears destined to become a reality and not so exaggerated. So here are the facts as I understand:

**WHAT'S THE BACKBROUND?**

- Blackhawk Rd. pavement from Pleasant View road to Twin Valley road is need of replacement. (Less than 2 miles)
- The Town of Middleton has begun resurfacing the west half of Blackhawk Rd. and are maintaining the existing width and basic construction.
- Responsibility for the east half of the road is shared with the City of Madison generally responsible for the south side of the street and the City of Middleton, and the Town of Middleton responsible for the north side.
- The City of Madison is proposing a nearly 1 million dollar project to reconstruct the east half of Blackhawk Road with the following breakdown:
  - City of Madison ~\$700k
    - 19 Madison residents subject to an assessment ~\$150,000
    - City of Madison general funds ~\$550,000
  - City of Middleton ~\$150k
  - Town of Middleton ~\$100k

**SO WHAT IS THE ISSUE?**

- Madison wants to widen the east 1 mile half by 50% to add bike lanes.
- In addition to increasing the paving cost, the added width interferes with existing drainage ditches, some sidewalks, grading, and other infrastructure. This forces additional spending for things like curbs and gutters and in the end may **almost double the project cost.**

**REALLY?**

- Look at the City of Middleton's share. They are responsible for roughly 50% of the street and their golf course has roughly the same frontage on Blackhawk Rd as the 19 residents, yet they are paying the same. Without a sidewalk on their side of the street, they only use minimal curb and gutter where necessary.

**WELL, DOES BLACKHAWK RD NEED TO BE WIDER?**

- No, because it doesn't really go anywhere as it ends at Twin Valley Rd. In addition, much of the undeveloped land consists of Polk Farm Park and the Blackhawk Ski Club.

#### AREN'T BIKE LANES A GOOD THING?

- Absolutely and that is why Madison has a general policy of installing them when improving roads. However, blindly following guidelines in all situations will result in high inefficiencies in some situations .
- Here's the issue. Less than one mile of Blackhawk Road would have the bike lanes.
- The west half would not have bike lanes for sometime because it is currently being improved without them.
- On the east end, Blackhawk Rd. connects with Pleasant View Road which does not have bike lanes.
- In addition, Old Sauk Rd runs parallel to Blackhawk Rd less than a quarter mile away. It has bike lanes, actually goes somewhere, and has the potential to carry more traffic in the future.

#### WHAT DID THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS DO?

- Heard clear and logical universal opposition to the proposed plan by more 50% of the notified individuals.
- Tabled approval to the next meeting in two weeks with clear guidance that a plan without bike lanes would NOT be considered.

#### WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

- At a minimum, the city engineers create and present a plan that does not include the widening for bike lanes.
- This option should be openly reviewed with pros and cons weighed versus the existing plan.
- Our elected officials and tax payer funded employees should weigh cost and benefit of each project so that creativity and logic can drive efficiency and enable investment in the right areas of our city.
- Decision should be data based and pass the common sense test.

#### WHO WOULD POTENTIALLY BENEFIT FROM THIS?

##### **EVERYONE!**

- Current residents would have their opinions heard and their dollars spent wisely.
- Residents of Madison would have their tax dollars spent efficiently.
- Budget dollars would be freed up for improvement to bike lanes and other infrastructure where it could have a much larger impact.
- The current and future transportation needs of Blackhawk Rd. would be met.
- Bike lanes could be added for the next life cycle if needed at that time and applicable to the entire length of Blackhawk Road.

Kevin Possell  
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