

Bachmann, Christy

From: Bennett, Janice - DOT [janice.bennett@dot.state.wi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:35 PM
To: Bachmann, Christy
Subject: FW: hearing on noise impacts on Whitney Way to Verona road work for 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Bennett, Janice - DOT
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:20 PM
To: 'sperlings@charter.net'
Cc: Barta, Larry - DOT
Subject: RE: hearing on noise impacts on Whitney Way to Verona road work for 2009

David,

Thank you for your comments. The Public Hearing tonight is indeed for an exception to the City's noise ordinance for a safety project to construct concrete barrier in the median of the Beltline. There will be future Public Information meetings regarding the planned expansion of the Beltline. I'm forwarding your email to Larry Barta so he can include you in any mailings regarding that work.

Jan Bennett, PDS Project Manager
Phone 242-8038

-----Original Message-----

From: sperlings@charter.net [mailto:sperlings@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:09 PM
To: Bennett, Janice - DOT
Subject: hearing on noise impacts on Whitney Way to Verona road work for 2009

Re: ID 5300-07-75

Public Hearing on Whitney Way to Verona Road noise impacts outside of 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. period.

I want to express my disappointment in the Department of Transportation's continued practices to circumvent the intent of public participation in transportation decisions with the hearing scheduled on the above item as an example. I'd like my comments entered into the record for this hearing.

As a member of the Greentree Neighborhood Association (GTNA), our group has repeatedly asked to receive advance notice of proposed projects on the Beltline between Gammon Road and Verona Road as these portions adjoin our neighborhood. We want to understand the proposals well enough and early enough to engage the homeowners and renters living in this neighborhood before changes to the roads, interchanges, entry and exit points, overpasses, underpasses and construction projects occur. WISDOT regularly shows its intent to minimize opportunities for meaningful public participation or analysis of proposed actions. Since October 2007, WISDOT has failed to make available to GTNA the Phase I Report of the Madison Beltline Operational Needs Assessment and also regularly delays publishing the Phase II report by maintaining it in "draft" status for months and months after it has been completed and reviewed. These documents are important background for the neighborhood to understand details of DOT's intended actions on portions of the Beltline that concern us.

Similarly, DOT has real skills in breaking up Beltline improvements and projects into small discrete pieces so they are small enough that they would not require Environmental Impact Statements or require meaningful public review. Instead of letting the public see your five and ten-year plans for expanding and widening the Beltline, you break the projects up into tiny one-year proposals to expand shoulders on the road, lengthening

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ingress and egress ramps, expand shoulders and so forth. In the latest case, you are seeking input on the installation of concrete barriers in the median of the Beltline from Whitney Way to Verona Road purportedly as a means of reducing crossover crashes. Yes, that may be part of the goal, but all the neighbors are thoroughly convinced that this is the next step in seeking to add additional traffic lanes on the Beltline between Whitney Way and Verona Road in a manner that will circumvent public review, scrutiny, questions or concerns. We don't believe this project is primarily aimed at reducing accidents so much as it is prelude to increasing the capacity by adding lanes to the Beltline in a manner that we could not review as a neighborhood. Holding a hearing on whether locals object to doing Beltline construction between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. is a far cry from seeking meaningful input on whether lane expansions and increased traffic are in the region's best interests. Providing public notice of an opportunity to attend a public meeting only two days ahead of time is equally insufficient. This sure seems like a continued disingenuous way to do business to me and reinforces a lack of trust when citizens try to engage your planning and review processes.

David L. Sperling
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Madison, WI 53711