

Tolley, Sabrina

From: Shawn Schey [shawnschey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 4:18 PM
To: Traffic
Subject: For DAVID DRYER: Lighting the SW Bike Path from Breese to South Beltline

Dear David Dryer:

I attended the hearing last night on November 28th when the Board of Public Works approved lighting the SW Bike Path.

The two big reasons offered by Alders Solomon and Clear and and Amanda White of the Bicycle Federation to light the path were:

1) Lighting the path at night will make it safer for users, hence more commuters on bicycles will use it. If Madison wants to encourage bicycling over automobile use, then lighting the path is the answer.

2) Lighting the path at night will defuse the threat of potential assault on users.

Since safety was stressed in both of these reasons, I would like to know:

Is there any data on other Madison bike paths that proves that when lights were installed, night time usage increased?

Is there any data on other Madison bike paths that proves that when lights were installed, the crime rate went down?

Without actual data to back these two things up, I find it hard to embrace lighting as a "solution." Especially since there has not been any reports of crime on the SW bike path in the last dozen years.

As Alder Brenda Maniaci aptly stated, lighting isolated linear corridors *could* encourage criminal activity since someone wishing to conduct an ambush can more easily identify a potential victim - and verify their isolation.

Since there has not been any criminal activity on the bike path the last 12 or so years, what do we do if installing lights actually results in assaults?

Lastly, since the alders for the Dudgeon-Monroe and Regent neighborhoods oppose this lighting plan, and the majority of people who registered and/or spoke at last night's hearing were in opposition, could there be consideration given to the folks who live in the immediate vicinity (and who are most affected by the lights) by possibly turning the lights OFF after a certain hour so that they do not burn all night long?

I've lived in Madison since the mid-80's, and I don't recall seeing anything like this getting passed when an alder and the majority of their district do not support it.

Shawn