

From: [Cathy Douglas](#)
To: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: Re item 60201, Street closures
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:20:14 PM

I enthusiastically support the proposal to open certain parts of roads as temporary bike/ped lanes during the Coronavirus emergency, in order to promote social distancing as we head into the warmer months. Trying to keep Madisonians indoors after a long winter is bound to be a losing battle, so it makes all kind of sense to give people more room to exercise outdoors and use active transport.

As a cyclist myself, I've found it especially hard to avoid the section of bike path adjacent to John Nolen. It's really the only practical way to get from one side of the city to the other. That path is comparatively wide, but it's already somewhat difficult to maintain proper distancing for the whole stretch, and this is likely to become even more of a problem soon. So adding a lane here for active transport would be especially important.

It also makes lots of sense to give cyclists more space on Atwood Av/Monona Drive by Olbrich. The current sidewalk route simply isn't wide enough to maintain adequate distance.

Some of the proposed closures make less sense to me. I don't see the Vilas or Clyde Gallagher closures as necessary. With the Zoo closed, that route has been uncrowded. And Clyde Gallagher is an out-of-the-way side street that never sees anything but local traffic. I'm not sure why either of these were chosen.

I'd rather see the block of Jackson St. that crosses the bike path adjacent to Atwood closed off. That's a dangerous block even in the best of times, because of limited visibility and traffic it a hurry to make a left turn off Atwood. I was actually a passenger in a car that hit a skateboarder there, and have seen many other close calls.

Apart from details, I strongly support rethinking our traffic mix during this pandemic, and appreciate the City's flexibility in doing so.