

To: Transportation Commission

Subject: Legistar File # 79278 Complete Green Streets Project Checklist Review and Feedback

Date: August 9, 2023

Dear Transportation Commission Members:

I am writing as a resident of the Tamarack Trails/Sauk Creek/Walnut Grove area (“Neighborhoods”) to give feedback on the above-referenced file number. I oppose the inclusion of the bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway (“Bike Path”) shown in the Complete Green Streets Policy Guide (“CGSG”) that was approved in January 2023 for several reasons:

1. Non-Transparent Actions

First and foremost, the Neighborhoods were not notified that the Bike Path was included in the CSSG. The CGSG was also not mentioned in the City’s Sauk Creek Greenway project communication page. The last update on the Bike Path was from 2018 when it was unveiled to the Neighborhoods in 2018 when the City held its first Sauk Creek Greenway engagement meeting.

Likewise, the Neighborhoods were never notified that a Bike Path was being considered in the 2000 Bike Transportation Plan and 2015 Bike Transportation Plan,

2. CGSG Approval Before West Area Plan Announced

The city had its first West Area Plan public meeting on February 6, 2023, with the Bike Path shown in the presentation; however, the CGSG approval was one month before this public meeting. This essentially means that the City is approving the bike path before the neighborhoods can comment on it.

3. Unnecessary Bike Path

The **2000 Bike Transportation Plan** classified the bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway as not a priority since there are suitable on-road routes nearby.

Westfield Road, 1000 feet east of the proposed Bike Path, is classified as a “Primary” bike lane per the updated 2015 Bike Transportation Plan, and High Point Road is a “Secondary” bike route. Westfield Road is a safe biking route, especially now given the speed bumps that were recently added.

Per Figure 4-16 of the 2015 Bike Transportation Plan, the planners said there is NOT a bike network gap between the Primary and Secondary bike networks in our neighborhood, which means the path is not necessary from their criteria.

4. Environmental Impact

There are seven (7) designated wetland areas in the Sauk Creek Greenway that would be impacted by a bike path.

Per the 2015 Bike Plan, an **environmental analysis** should be done for new shared-use paths that go through wetlands, and the City could minimize the impact on the wetlands by utilizing existing pathways (Westfield and High Point).

Maintaining and growing the City's Tree Canopy is a City priority per the CGSG. The Sauk Creek Greenway is a dense 26-acre woods that would be significantly impacted by a Bike Path. The City is also not following its **Fostering Sustainability** Street Values in the CGSG by adding a 5000+ foot Bike Path that would have an impervious surface.

5. Non-Civic Engagement

Petitions against this Bike Path were submitted to the Common Council on November 15, 2022, attached to file #73264, which was before the CGSG passed on January 3, 2023. These petitions were ignored and the Neighborhood's opinions once again were excluded from this process.

In summary, several City Values are not being upheld with this Bike Path and we ask that the CGSG be amended to exclude the Bike Path given the above-stated reasons, as well as the City's imploding debt.

Thank you.

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