

Hacker, Marsha

From: Al & Aileen Nettleton [aanett@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 2:29 PM
To: Hacker, Marsha; Tolley, Sabrina
Subject: FW: SW Path Lighting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Below is the statement sent today to Sue Ellingson in support of SW Path lighting.

From: Al & Aileen Nettleton [mailto:aanett@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 10:52 AM
To: Ellingson, Susan (district13@cityofmadison.com)
Cc: 'allalders@cityofmadison.com'
Subject: SW Path Lighting

Sue, We would like to urge you to support the installation of lighting on the SW Path.

As 40 year residents of the Dudgeon Monroe neighborhood, we have come to appreciate how much of an asset the former railroad corridor has become for the City of Madison and the surrounding region. We have seen it change from being used as an active rail line, to underutilized vacant land but labeled as a transportation corridor, and finally as a part of our wonderful regional pedestrian and bicycle path system.

We have been frequent users of the path and appreciate the fact that we have an access point on Sheldon Street. One of us (Al) is an active bicyclist, logging thousands of miles as a commuter, and found that the path is not safe for nighttime riding, even with bike lights. Lighting of this path will change the night time use from one of difficulty (due to an inability to see the path, obstacles, and other path users) to one of safety and convenience.

It is a serious problem to bike from lighted areas of the Madison path system into un-lighted areas. Our night vision doesn't kick in rapidly enough to safely make the transition (it takes about a half hour for most people).

Unfortunately the proposal for lighting has resulted in a divisive "we" (many residents along the path) vs. "them" (others) debate within our neighborhood. As a result, the Dudgeon Monroe Neighborhood Association has avoided taking a stand on the lighting so that feelings on either side will not be hurt. So it is important to view this project from the benefits it will provide for all of Madison and not just from the parochial point of view of a few of our neighbors. Specifically, the SW path is not the property of those that live along it. While it is important to take their opinions into consideration, they should not have veto power on the lighting for this shared community resource.

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