

From: [Erin Skarivoda](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Help Willy Street WITHOUT more police
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Hello Transportation Commission members,

I'm writing in support of increasing safety on Williamson Street WITHOUT increasing police presence.

I live on the 1200 block of Spaight Street. Two of my favorite local businesses to walk to are Mother Fools and Ha Long Bay. Both of these businesses have been crashed into by cars speeding and swerving down Williamson Street in the past decade -- and Mother Fools was crashed into *multiple* times. This is a problem that should be addressed.

I am *strongly against* an increased police presence along Williamson Street. Dozens of studies show that police officers regularly engage in racial profiling and use higher amounts of force against people of color than they do with white people. Also, nearby organizations like Luke House and St. Vincent De Paul serve unhoused and impoverished populations, which are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, or otherwise non-white, in Dane County and the rest of the country. To a hammer, everything looks like a nail. I am concerned that if more police spend more time in the Marquette neighborhood near Williamson Street looking for traffic violations, more of my non-white neighbors will be harmed by police, especially innocent Black, Indigenous, and Latino men.

The traffic safety solutions that I prefer include traffic signal changes and adding safety bollards. Adding more left turn arrows at intersections along Williamson Street will help ease congestion, frustration, and reckless decisions. Safety bollards will protect people walking on sidewalks as well as buildings of local businesses.

I am wary of removing peak-hour travel lanes if that means removing parking spots. Street parking is in short supply in the neighborhood, as many people living in the area drive a vehicle but don't have a garage, lot, or even a driveway in which to park it. If it's between this and increasing police presence, though, I'll gladly give up some parking space.

Living on an isthmus comes with some logistical challenges when it comes to traffic and movement. It's a price that we pay to live in between two gorgeous lakes. My neighbors who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color should not have to pay a higher price due to an ill-conceived attempt to address traffic concerns.

Please take action to address traffic safety concerns on Williamson Street, but please do not send more police to sit around in my neighborhood looking for "trouble."

Best,
Erin

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