

From: [Jenny Iskandar](#)
To: annelizabethkovich@gmail.com; djess@wcbliind.org; [Transportation Commission](#); [Stuehrenberg, Justin](#); [Tao, Yang](#)
Subject: City Planners IGNORED your 12/13 motion Regarding Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:20:58 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jennyiskandar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Commissioner Kovich and Transportation Commission members,

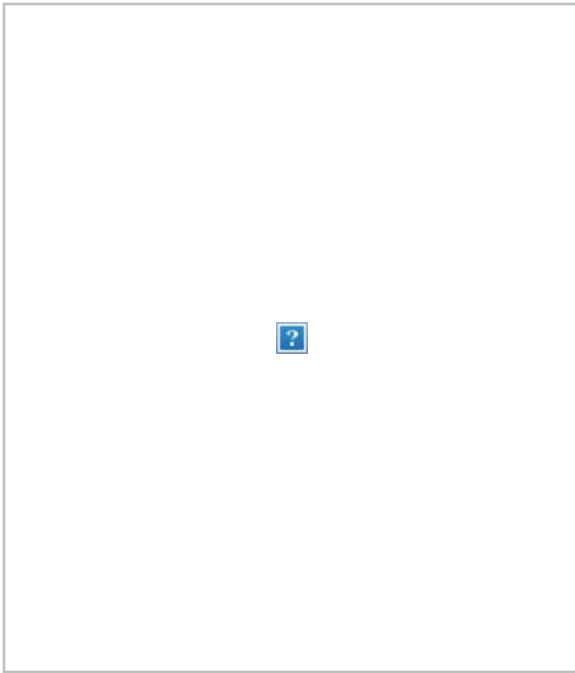
The Friends of Sauk Creek are extremely disappointed that city planners did not follow your directive, from your December 13, 2023 meeting, to **first** explore shared-use path connections in the streets surrounding the Sauk Creek Greenway and then, if necessary, to use "enormous caution and study" if the Greenway is to be used. We request that you invite Ben Zellers, to present alternatives, on the nearby streets, at your March 13 meeting.

We see no evidence, in the draft West Area Plan, that the city planning department responded to your directive. In addition, at the public meetings this week, Mr. Zellers reported that your commission instructed planners to move ahead with the Sauk Creek Greenway Path without comment.

At your December 13 meeting, many of you commented on the large volume of opposition provided in response to the proposed shared-use path. This included 80+ letters, a petition signed by 300+ residents, and live testimony from many concerned citizens. We have shared this same information with multiple city agencies, Mayor Rhodes-Conway, and city department heads – and **we were IGNORED**. The Transportation Commission has been the only group of city representatives who have listened to us. We are very concerned that the city **planners are now IGNORING you**.

The following map is from page 13 of the draft West Area Plan. <https://plans.cityofmadison.com/westareaplndraft>.

Please notice there is a shared-use path shown on High Point Road north of Sauk Creek Park.



- This path could be extended to Tree Lane **to satisfy your request and our concerns** about further disruption of this environmentally significant cherished part of our neighborhoods.
- This extended leg would connect with a newly created shared use path on Tree Lane. And ultimately to the new BRT station on

Mineral Point Road.

- When asked about this High Point Road extension, at the virtual West Area Plan meeting this week, Mr. Zellers expressed concern in dealing with parked cars and driveways. That would also be the case on High Point Road north of Sauk Creek Park and on Tree Lane -- along with probably 90% of on-street bike lanes in Madison. ***Why is it only a concern from Sauk Creek Park to Haen Family Park?***

If you are not familiar with the neighborhoods of the Sauk Creek Greenway we encourage you to visit before your next vote on this issue. You'll find what we consider to be a model for "all ages and abilities" biking and walking in Madison. The streets surrounding the greenway (High Point Road, Tree Lane, Westfield and Farmington) are all wide streets, and rarely have heavy traffic, large segments have designated bike lanes and other traffic calming strategies. Bikers who are not comfortable on larger streets and those just learning, have cul-de-sacs and side streets, in addition to the already existing path in Walnut Grove Park and the underutilized path behind Walgreens on High Point Road.

The bike commuters in our neighborhoods have indicated that the circuitous route that would be necessary to traverse the greenway (80% of which is surrounded by apartments, condominiums, and single-family homes) would make it useless to commuters and serious recreational bikers.

Please instruct the city planners to extend the planned shared-use path on High Point Road to Tree Lane AND to remove plans for a path through the Sauk Creek Greenway from the West Area plan. Funds for this unnecessary and destructive path should be used to fill TRUE gaps in the west area bike network.

Thank you

,
Jenny Iskandar, 17 St Lawrence Circle
for Friends of Sauk Creek