

From: [Larson, Aidan](#)
To: [Larson, Aidan](#)
Subject: FW: Harvey Street sidewalks -- letter to BPW Chair Cullen
Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024 3:42:10 PM
Attachments: [4380F44F93904F8BA3D90E1D8F9208F3.png](#)

From: [Rich Kedzior](#)

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 3:37 PM

To: [Wolfe, James](#)

Cc: [Petykowski, Christopher](#); [Vidaver, Regina](#); kliems@gmail.com; [Jonathan Becker](#); [Michael Cullen](#); annelizabethkovich@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Harvey Street sidewalks -- letter to BPW Chair Cullen

Jim,

I appreciate your note and I understand the process limitations here. We appreciate the addition of the sidewalk on the north side of Harvey Street – we really do. Harvey Street has been a pedestrian hell for far too long and this will go a very long way to improve it for those passing through (at least until one reaches Ridge Street). We also appreciate the efforts to spare most of the large trees on the north side of Harvey Street. Yet I hasten to note that tree canopy maximalism is not the goal of the Urban Forestry Task Force Report and neither does it articulate a goal to require that the city prioritize tree canopy over new sidewalk and pedestrian safety. Harvey Street has an abundance of tree canopy (circa 100%), possibly more than any other nearby street. Losing less than 25% of the tree canopy on the west end of Harvey Street for a few years isn't going to degrade the neighborhood's quality of life whereas adding 250 feet of sidewalk to connect the sidewalk island with Eugenia and Blackhawk will yield dividends immediately and forever. City Engineering is not weighing the relative social benefits of the two trees vs 250 feet of sidewalk well here.

Moreover, there were serious deficiencies in the information presented to the Transportation Commission and BPW. City staff and property owner misrepresentations are significant enough here that I believe the commission and board were misled. Not completing the south sidewalk to Blackhawk Avenue is a mistake for the numerous reasons I've already articulated. I would also encourage you to review the decisions that City Engineering made in 2018-19 not to consider adding sidewalk to the east side of Blackhawk Avenue for the 2020 reconstruction project (which was sold as a pavement replacement project but really wasn't because of 100% curb replacement) and the Blackhawk Ave/University Ave intersection right turn lane addition (2021?). These two projects involved a different set of city managers but worth reviewing for your edification. They both presented opportunities to add sidewalk and improve pedestrian safety and, except for changes to corner curb radii, City Engineering leadership blew them off. City public involvement efforts were really poor for both, as well. So, there's a history here that is negative. Can you understand our frustration? All of these little city decisions to not add sidewalk to city projects add up to a lot of street footage in north Sunset Village lacking

sidewalk for many many years, if not forever.

By the way, if I understand my construction contracts correctly, adding more sidewalk to a project is simply a quantity change not requiring a rebid.

Regards,

Rich

From: Wolfe, James <JWolfe@cityofmadison.com>

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 12:28 PM

To: Rich Kedzior <rkedz@hotmail.com>; mikhailkcullen@gmail.com <mikhailkcullen@gmail.com>

Cc: Petykowski, Christopher <CPetykowski@cityofmadison.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; kliems@gmail.com <kliems@gmail.com>; anneelizabethkovich@gmail.com <anneelizabethkovich@gmail.com>; Jonathan Becker <benjonb@charter.net>

Subject: RE: Harvey Street sidewalks -- letter to BPW Chair Cullen

Hello Rich,

I understand that your letter was addressed to BPW Chair Cullen, but I think I'm better suited to respond as City Engineer and the Executive Secretary for the BPW. I'd like to first clarify that the Common Council has the final authority when approving project plans; the BPW makes a recommendation to the Council based on public testimony, staff presentations, and their own expertise. Ultimately, the Council unanimously approved the project with the sidewalk on one side of Harvey St., and your sidewalk petition was made part of the public record in advance of their meeting. Since then, the project has been bid and the contract for the work has been awarded. We certainly understand your points and preferences regarding sidewalks on both sides of Harvey St., and we agree that having quality pedestrian facilities is important. The City makes a significant effort to improve pedestrian facilities throughout the City (for some recent examples see projects on Lake Mendota Dr., Dempsey Rd & Davies St., E. Dean Ave., Hammersley Rd., and an upcoming project on Knutson Rd., among others). The City also places a high priority on preserving and expanding the urban tree canopy, consistent with the City's adopted Urban Forestry Task Force Report. In addition to those base policies, we also factor public input into the design of our projects. As such, your prior comments were taken into consideration, as was input we received from other residents around the project.

On this particular project, the City had a reconstruction project scheduled for a portion of Harvey St. from Schmitt Pl. to the east due to condition of the streets (pavement rated a 4 out of 10). Initially, this project did not include any work on Harvey St. between Schmitt and Blackhawk. We received the neighborhood association's letter requesting sidewalk on Harvey St., and, based on that input, we decided to explore the possibility of expanding the project scope and limits to include additional sidewalk work. It was then determined that adding sidewalk on the south side was not preferred at this time not solely due to input from residents adjacent to the project, but also with the understanding that the City places a high value on, and prioritizes preserving, our large canopy trees. We reviewed other design options, and we believe it would be possible to add sidewalk in that area and preserve the trees as part of a future street reconstruction project. However, given that the additional 2+ blocks of sidewalk on the north side of Harvey was already additional scope to

a planned & budgeted project and that the portion of Harvey towards Blackhawk Ave. is in considerably better condition than the portion being reconstructed (pavement rated a 6 out of 10), it is not feasible to reconstruct that portion of Harvey at this time.

For additional context, with all of the various town attachments to the City over the decades, there are approximately 160 miles of street in the City without sidewalks. We are making efforts to improve those streets (see projects previously noted), but with a lot of priorities and needs throughout the City, but with very limited resources, it is a challenging task and will take time. In this particular instance, the approved retro-fit of sidewalk on the north side of Harvey St. is a good interim improvement to at least add some pedestrian facilities where there were none before, while also balancing other City priorities, until a project with a larger scope can be scheduled, and the Board of Public Works and Common Council agreed with this approach.

With all of this in mind, we will not be bringing the design of Harvey St. back to the Board of Public Works or the Common Council for reconsideration, and we will move forward with work under the awarded contract this spring.

Thank you again for your interest and passion in supporting pedestrian facilities in your neighborhood.

Jim Wolfe, P.E. (he/him/his)

City Engineer

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From: Rich Kedzior <rkedz@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:21 PM

To: mikhailkullen@gmail.com

Cc: Wolfe, James <JWolfe@cityofmadison.com>; Petykowski, Christopher <CPetykowski@cityofmadison.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; kliems@gmail.com; anneelizabethkovich@gmail.com; Jonathan Becker <benjonb@charter.net>

Subject: Harvey Street sidewalks -- letter to BPW Chair Cullen

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Mr. Cullen,

Please see the attached letter concerning the Board's consideration and approval of sidewalk on Harvey Street at the October 18, 2023 meeting.

Regards,

Rich Kedzior

