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Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 11:40 AM

To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>; Benford, Brian <district6@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Alder Foster's comment regarding bike path along the lake/Olbrich

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Dear Commissioners, Alder Benford, Alder Foster,

Alder Foster and I have been involved in working on issues of multi-modality for many years. While I agree with Alder Foster on many issues, his perspective on why the path is a fit along the lake, across from Olbrich, is not one of them. (see comments below)

I live along the Willy St and Winnebago corridor. The sidewalk in front of my home has morphed into an unofficial part of the bike path, where I have been hit by bikers three times. While I absolutely support multi-modality, and have worked on the issue in the neighborhood for decades, I can honestly say that there **are** conflicts with bikers and pedestrians. This is not new, nor is it specific to Madison. For example, New York City is working to accurately assess and address the issue.

At a neighborhood traffic meeting, Denise Jess, head of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind mentioned that she would prefer to walk the Capital City Trail, but due to the behavior of *some* bikers, it feels too dangerous to her. I know many older people feel the same way. Many bikes, including e-bikes, fly down the path. A fall for an older person can be a very traumatic and life threatening event.

Providing space for slower moving pedestrians and people who want to contemplate, or bird watch.....walk with their elders or toddlers or dog, and not be constantly on the look-out for faster moving bikers, is as important of a feature for our public spaces as providing a way for bikers to commute through our neighborhoods. I appreciate the Commissions decision to support Option 3.

Respectfully,

Anne Walker

District 6

Minute 2:02 of the Board of Park Commissioners October 13 meeting.

Alder Foster: I really appreciate some of the concerns and the fear of people that people on bikes are going to somehow ruin it for pedestrians. It's certainly not my experience and I feel like it would be a step backwards if we started going back to this idea that there's somehow a real major conflict with the existence or the movement of people on bicycles that somehow taking a space and making it now no longer a contemplative, or whatever the words have been used. I would also say the entire other shoreline along this park, along by the Biergarten, on both sides of the Biergarten, there's no [?] at all and honestly if you want to get contemplative and go and hang out by the lake, you go over there. So I just don't buy it honestly, I don't think this is a very special, special place that we need to protect against people riding bicycles.