

Hacker, Marsha

From: Susan Robinson [srobins1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 9:58 PM
To: Tolley, Sabrina; Hacker, Marsha
Subject: PBMVC and Public Works letter
Attachments: Bike path letter to alders and more.doc

Attached is a letter I am submitting to the Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission and to the Board of Public Works in advance of the Nov. 28th public hearing. Thank you for distributing it to the members.

Sue Robinson

To: The Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission and the Board of Public Works

Re: Southwest Multi Use Path Overhead Lighting Proposal

Date: November 20, 2012

I am writing to you to express my opposition to the proposed overhead lighting for the Southwest Multi Use Path. I am an adjacent property owner who frequently uses the path and believe the city is making a mistake in considering implementation of this proposal. First of all, I feel the city should seriously consider simpler, less expensive options to address the perceived safety issues and take time to evaluate the results. These options include actions such as putting reflective striping on the sides of the path, repainting the center stripe, posting better signage to explain path etiquette and rules, enforcing use of lights on bikes and enforcing car/bike/pedestrian laws at path/street crossings. The section of path between Glenway Street and Commonwealth Avenue recently had a gravel shoulder added and now provides an area for people to walk or run on should they choose to do so. This should be evaluated to determine if this alleviates concerns raised by others who feel it is dangerous to be on this path at night.

Second, I do not believe this should be a city priority. City departments have been asked to trim their budgets. Alders and citizens from all over the city complained about the lack of funding for the Overture Center, for funding golf pros, for funding projects in struggling neighborhoods. Regardless of your opinions about Overture or golf pros or various city departments, we hear that the city wants to strengthen our neighborhoods. I do not believe that this \$275,000 overhead lighting project is needed to "strengthen" the Regent, Dudgeon-Monroe, Nakoma, Westmorland, or Odana neighborhoods. That money should be used to assist neighborhoods that we know have documented needs!

Third, let's do this project correctly. This is not appropriate lighting for this path. I am so discouraged by the city's refusal to consider other options. We have been told that the 20 foot overhead poles with LED lights are the only option. No alternatives. As a city taxpayer, I say that if the city can document that the path needs to be lighted, then do it properly. Yes, it may cost more in the long run but let's have a long term outlook on this. If the city goes ahead with this project, there is no turning back. It will ruin this great outdoor space for our lifetimes.

Please do not support this overhead lighting proposal.

Sincerely,

Susan Robinson