

## Harnish, Sharon L

---

**From:** Andrew Rieschl <amrieschl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** Transportation Policy Board  
**Subject:** Comments on item 4/72615: Speed Policy on Shared Use Paths

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

Dear Transportation Policy Board,

I'm a daily path user; I use the paths on foot, on e-bike, and on regular bike. I use the paths to commute to work, to run errands, and for exercise/recreation.

There are a lot of conflicting opinions, and I worry that such varied responses may lead to negative consequences by trying to please everyone. Continue to prioritize their use as shared-use paths, rather than legislating some groups away from them.

I've been annoyed by traffic that is slower/taking up a lot of space, and I've been caught off-guard by someone passing more quickly/closely than necessary. That said, my experiences on the shared-use paths have been overwhelmingly positive, and I'm very happy that they exist in Madison. I feel very safe on the paths, and SO much safer than biking on the roads.

A few ideas presented that concern me:

Speed limits - I slow down on days/at times when there is a lot of foot traffic (whether I'm on a regular bike or an e-bike); It makes more sense to change speed based on the conditions of the path rather than to require folks to bike slower than necessary in the early morning when they are the only person using the path (as I often am). 6am on a Monday is a much different path than 11am on Badger football day.

Telling bikers to move to the road - This defeats what I interpret as a major goal for the paths in the first place, i.e. this would prevent more people from treating biking as a viable transit option. I feel safer on the shared use paths and segregated bike lanes than anywhere else. There may be more conflicts on the shared use paths due to different types of users, those conflicts are absolutely less deadly than car vs. bike conflicts.

Speed bumps - One of the best perks of the paths is how smooth and flat they are. Speed is not the concern as much as passing unaware folks too closely/quickly is.

Different rules for e-bikes - As someone with a long and hilly commute, an e-bike is an amazing and freeing machine. I'm sure there are others like me who have started to treat an e-bike as a primary mode of transit, rather than a secondary option; which takes cars off the road, among other benefits to myself and others. If you do choose to make new rules, please base them on behavior rather than type of machine.

I would say that most concerns simply boil down to different groups having different expectations of the other groups, but no real constructive way to convey those expectations among themselves. I'm no expert, but it might be a better and more constructive use of time and resources to aim more for awareness and path etiquette, rather than in effect punishing one group at the expense of another simply because one complained the loudest.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my thoughts.

--

Andrew Rieschl  
262 515 7606