

From: [Brian Lavendel](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Agenda item 86458--Evergreen, Ohio , and Sommers Avenue Reconstruction
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:53:29 PM
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Dear Common Council,

I'd like to offer a proposed change for the Evergreen Avenue, Ohio Avenue, and Sommers Avenue reconstruction plans (agenda item 86458 of the January 14, 2025 meeting), with apologies for the late notice.

First of all, I want to thank City of Madison Engineering for responding to neighborhood preference for narrowing Sommers Avenue from 26' with parking on the north side to 24' with parking on the north side. As City of Madison Engineering says, "This was widely supported by the residents on this street, as well as providing additional benefits such as protecting existing street trees within a narrower terrace space and having some traffic calming effects."

But I think we can go half a step further with regard to Evergreen Avenue. The issue is this:

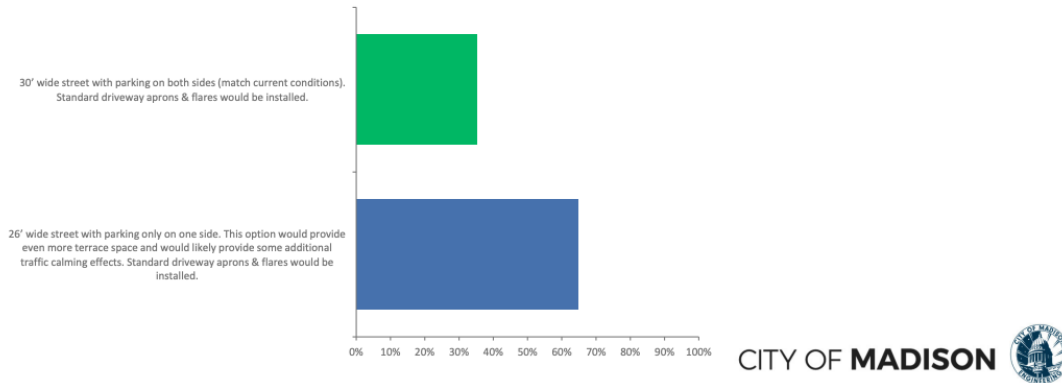
The vast majority of the neighbors are in favor of narrowing Evergreen Avenue, as am I. (See City of Madison Engineering graphic below.) However, three of the five responding households living on Evergreen did not want to lose on-street parking by narrowing the street.

I understand and respect the need for on-street parking and to some extent can understand why engineering chose to go with this 3 to 2 vote of households on the street and keep the street at 30' with parking on both sides rather than the wider neighborhood vote of 26-11 to narrow the street to 26'.

Personally, I disagree and would rather see the broader neighborhood vote respected rather than that of just the 5 households who responded with a very slim 3 to 2 preference for the wider street. That is, a street width of 26' for Evergreen Ave continues to be my preference.

Questionnaire Results

- Design option results
 - 37 responses
 - Narrow Evergreen Ave from 30' to 26' street width?



However, there is yet another option--that offers both a slightly narrower street AND maintains parking on both sides.

It seems the solution was not offered because it apparently does not align with the "green streets program." And that is to narrow Evergreen Avenue to 28' AND keep the current parking availability.

This was done on Dunning on the north side of Atwood during that recent street reconstruction. I spoke with City of Madison Engineer Andrew Zweig and learned that it used to be quite common to do 28'-width street reconstruction with parking on both sides. I personally regularly travel that stretch by bike and auto and find that the 28'-width along with parking on both sides substantially slows traffic--while adding greenspace, terrace area for tree growth, and reducing asphalt in the neighborhood.

I respectfully ask the Council to make this adjustment in the plan to narrow Evergreen Avenue to 28' AND keep the current parking availability. That will meet the overwhelming preference in the neighborhood for a (slightly) narrower street, while also maintaining parking on both sides to satisfy those three households on Evergreen Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Community,
Brian Lavendel

PS Alders and Madam Mayor, I realize you have a lot on your plates and that my request concerns a pretty small matter in the greater scheme of things you work on day in and day out! I deeply appreciate your service.

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