

From: [Christian Heavner](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: SW Commuter Path at W Washington Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:16:01 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the city's plan to add signals to the bike path at W. Washington. While I understand the intention behind this plan, I am worried that it is both costly and inadequate in enhancing safety without also implementing additional traffic calming measures.

As a cyclist who frequently navigates this path during peak commuting hours, I have observed firsthand the significant improvement in safety since the reduction to a single lane in either direction. I also have observed minimal congestion from this change. This modification has made crossing much safer, even during nighttime hours.

However, the current design of W. Washington inherently encourages drivers to exceed safe speeds with its wide lanes. Without further interventions such as lane narrowing, a lane reduction, or the installation of a raised sidewalk, I fear that this road will continue to pose a safety risk.

This intersection is heavily used by both cyclists and pedestrians. A fully signalized crossing may inadvertently increase the likelihood of pedestrians crossing unsafely due to long waits at low traffic volume hours. Coupled with the high speeds on this road and the tendency for drivers to run red lights, there remains a significant risk of fatalities.

To truly adhere to the principles of Madison's Vision Zero Initiative, we must prioritize the lives of pedestrians and cyclists over traffic volume. I urge you to consider reducing and narrowing lanes, implementing raised crossings, and placing a greater emphasis on safety.

Thank you for considering this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Christian Heavner