

**From:** [Ellen Foley in Madison, WI](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on Green Streets Checklist Agenda item 79278 for Aug. 3, 2023  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 3:11:16 PM

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Dear Commission,

I agree with Paul Skidmore that the city should immediately remove any representation of a bike path in Sauk Creek Greenway from the Green Streets Guide before you discuss and move ahead with approval of the use of the Green Streets Guide Checklist today.

Residents near the Sauk Creek Greenway have not been informed of a bike path planned for the Greenway and, in fact, they have been given several indications that the city cannot afford to build one and do not agree that its recreational purpose has a role in the Greenway. Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway told a group of residents from several neighborhoods at Yola's Cafe last year that the Greenway is NOT a place for our recreation and is only to be used for water conveyance to prevent flooding. And Alder Nikki Conklin read to another neighborhood meeting last year at the Tamarack Trails Clubhouse a similar email from the Engineering Department to her. The Greenway is not for our recreational use, it said. Yet images of a recreational bike path continue to surprise us in documents that city officials share at poorly attended meetings, such as the recent open house at Rennebhom Park with 37 residents in attendance.

One of the key principles of the Green Streets Guide is the engagement of voters affected by changes in our streets, roads, paths, bus lanes, etc. We have not received postcards about a meeting or other specific communication about engagement on a bike path.

Another principle is that transportation routes need to have a destination, which this proposed bike path does not have. Engineering has told us that the current version starts at Tree Lane and ends in a cul de sac off High Point Road. It is not connected to any other bike paths and is not a destination path for small children to schools, which are East of the Greenway, not North-South.

The Green Streets Guide also works to ensure equity for People of Color and low-income people. The hilly terrain of Sauk Creek Greenway could make a bike path unsafe for the families of Indian descent who live in a large nearby apartment complex and use the woods to walk in groups, sometimes with strollers. It also could present privacy and safety issues for low-income seniors who live on Social Security in the area.

We are eager for your action to exclude any representation or content about a Sauk Creek Greenway bike path from the Green Streets Guide before your discussion today.

Thank you,  
Ellen Foley