

Benishek Clark, Anne

Subject: FW: Public comment, Transportation Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee meeting 1/25/2017

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From: Zellers, Ledell
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 10:18 AM
To: Benishek Clark, Anne
Subject: Fw: Public comment, Transportation Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee meeting 1/25/2017

For legistar.

Alder Ledell Zellers
608 417 9521

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From: Harald Kliems <kliems@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 3:10 PM
To: Demarb, Denise; Zellers, Ledell; Clear, Mark; Skidmore, Paul; Kemble, Rebecca; King, J Steven
Subject: Public comment, Transportation Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee meeting 1/25/2017

Dear Members of the Transportation Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee:

I would like to submit the following public comments to agenda items 5 and 6 (Review and discuss drafts of proposed ordinances; Address specific remaining questions pertaining to staffing, appeals, and board and commission composition) on today's meeting.

First, I am convinced that having a Department of Transportation and a Director of Transportation is crucial for a city of the size of Madison. Time and again we have seen that there is no coherent transportation policy and leadership to guide decision-making in a forward-thinking manner. For instance, despite a general commitment to make Madison's transportation more sustainable, at the project level we still see decisions like the case of the reconstruction of Monroe Street that gives us more of the same car-centric planning yet again. Similarly, just yesterday I saw the announcement of the winners of a big initiative to boost the number of people cycling. Eighty cities across the US applied, and 10 were awarded funding of \$200,000. <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/blog/entry/peopleforbikes-launches-the-big-jump-project> When I emailed the organization funding the project and asked about the lack of Midwestern cities among the winners, I received this response: "As you probably know, Madison did not apply (nor any other Wisconsin city), despite some direct outreach from us encouraging their participation." I am sure there are many reasons why Madison did not apply, but the lack of leadership in transportation certainly contributed to it. I therefore urge you to reconsider abandoning the requirement of a department and a director of transportation.

Second, I am concerned that the restructuring you propose would weaken the input from citizens and advocates for active transportation -- people biking, walking, taking transit -- and for citizens with disabilities. It is my understanding that the current recommendation is to consolidate all existing transportation committees into one policy and one implementation body, with no requirement to bring the expertise and interest of those groups to

the table. This seems like a step in the wrong direction to me, and I would ask you to take these concerns into consideration.

Thank you for your consideration,
Harald Kliems.

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Harald Kliems
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Madison, WI 53726