

Pien, Janet

From: Tolley, Sabrina
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Pien, Janet
Subject: FW: SW Bike Path Lighting

-----Original Message-----

From: rlhess@wisc.edu [mailto:rlhess@wisc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 12:06 PM
To: ALL ALDERS
Cc: Tolley, Sabrina
Subject: SW Bike Path Lighting

Dear Alders,

I write in opposition to lighting portions of the South West bike path. I'll try to keep this e-mail brief.

I do not live along the bike path but five minutes from it. While I do not use it for commuting, I do bike along the path routinely during warmer months to get to and from meetings both downtown and on the West side. I walk the bike path during the entire year for recreation. It is a wonderful city resource.

Although I am familiar with several arguments for lighting the path, including the one that this is a transportation corridor, I see it as much more than that -- as a special natural environment within the city worthy of being protected. Lights would be an intrusion and arguably damage that environment. I believe other options exist for cyclists who use it after dark. Beyond taking existing bike lanes on city streets or placing bikes on bus racks, there is the use of headlamps, required by law I believe but not enforced. Headlamps -- very strong ones at that -- were very much in evidence the other night when I walked the path. They seemed adequate in identifying other bikers, walkers, animals and debris.

Best,

(Ms.) Ronnie Hess
Madison, WI