From: <u>James Long</u>

To: <u>Transportation Commission; Conklin, Nikki</u>
Subject: Opposition to bike path in Item 77560

Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 12:59:12 PM

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The Madison Plan Commission received 42 pages of signatures opposing the bike path through the Sauk Creek Greenway. During the Plan Commission meeting last week, there were several people who spoke opposing the bike path and **not one person** spoke on behalf of the bike path. The written letters sent to the Plan Commission far outweighed the number of residents in favor of the path.

This proposed bike path will travel the same route as the parallel streets on either side, that is Sauk Creek Drive and Farmington. It is not near any local school, so it does not provide safe passage for school children.

The proposed path will need the expense of regular maintenance to keep it functional and safe. It is a needless cost in light of the aforementioned streets being lightly used and one having speed bumps which slows vehicular traffic.

The proposed bike path construction will result in the destruction of trees that provide shade, privacy, ground cooling, act as a buffer to noise, provide oxygen, absorb rain runoff, and lower light pollution from light going up. Trees provide a habitat to ground and flying animals, as well as offering cover to numerous plant species.

With so many streets and roads in disrepair, I feel this money could be used to improve existing infrastructure. The addition of a bike path that does not connect to other paths is unneeded and a poor use of public funds.

Madison has always been a city that portrays itself as having neighborhoods of green spaces and this unwise proposal is contradictory to what Madison leadership has advocated.

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