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Plan Commission  
City of Madison  
Madison Municipal Building Suite 017  
215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703

**Re: Deficiency of Draft South Madison Plan Related to Historic Preservation**

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to call to your attention to what appears to be a significant deficiency with the current draft of the South Madison Plan (SM Plan), which is agenda item number 3 (Legistar [67570](#)) on the Plan Commission agenda today, October 4, 2021. The draft of the SM Plan fails to address historic resources located in the plan area and historic preservation goals or strategies, which is contrary to city policy.

Please note, the current draft of the SM Plan states:

“The South Madison neighborhood became one of the city’s first suburbs and home to historic culture and diversity not seen anywhere else in the city.”

However, the draft of the SM Plan is silent on historic resources located in the plan area and fails to include any recommendations for preserving them. As documented in the City of Madison Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan), city policies embrace and support historic preservation. One of 12 goals in the Comp Plan states, “Madison will be a vibrant and creative city that values and builds upon its cultural and historic assets.” Strategy 2 in the Culture and Character section of the Comp Plan is, “Preserve historic and special places that tell the story of Madison and reflect racially and ethnically diverse cultures and histories.” Specific actions in the Comp Plan under Strategy 2 include, “Identify ways to retain older buildings and places that contribute to the special character of an area, or are associated with diverse cultures, through the adoption of sub-area plans prior to redevelopment pressures.” Finally, the Comp Plan states, “Sub-area planning efforts should identify the older buildings that should be retained and recommend the most appropriate means for doing so.”

I am currently traveling and unable to appear or speak at your meeting today about this important issue. Please give this deficiency in the draft of the SM Plan serious consideration and request that planning staff correct it by including, with meaningful community input, a section on historic preservation that identifies historic resources in the plan area with goals and strategies for their preservation.

Sincerely,



Alex Saloutos

pc: Landmarks Commission  
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation