

Harnish, Sharon L

From: Andrew Lail <ajlail98@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Transportation Policy Board
Subject: Written comments agenda item 72615

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Dear Transportation Policy Board,

Like many folks in town, I enjoy walking, running, and cycling on the shared use paths in Madison. They're one of my favorite parts of living here. Since many people use these paths, it makes sense that there will be conflicts between users. To address this, I feel the most beneficial things to do would be to add more paths, add more space to the paths that exist, and bring back more shared streets installations.

One of the biggest choke points that I have experienced is the Capitol City trail past Law Park and Monona Terrace. I believe part of the issue with this section is that it's too important! There really is no other route through the isthmus that provides such a consistently high level of safety for all users; unsurprisingly, many people use it. If other cross-isthmus routes were just as safe as the trail, that might spread users out or allow more people to enjoy walking and biking.

The other suggestion I have would be to separate pedestrian and cycling paths. A great example of this in Madison is the Lakeshore Trail between Picnic Point and Willow Creek, where the two modes are separated by grass and trees. Even with this separation, the path takes up no more space than the average narrow street. This type of path could be replicated throughout the city, especially somewhere with lots of traffic and plenty of right-of-way, like the Capitol City trail.

I would also encourage the return of the Shared Streets program. Shared streets provided a remarkably enjoyable environment for all users, since there is so much space on roads. It's easy for speedy cyclists to coexist with groups walking when they are provided a wide enough right-of-way. Returning permanent shared streets to places like Mifflin, Sherman, Shore Dr, and expanding to many more streets would provide much-needed space for biking and walking.

In summary, we need to be making our trail system work for more people, rather than restricting what user groups can access the trails we have now. These are design challenges, but they are very solvable. Thank you for your time and hard work on this!

Cheers,
Andrew Lail
406 Castle Pl, Madison