

Tolley, Sabrina

From: Dryer, David
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Tolley, Sabrina
Subject: SW Path Comment from Steve Arnold

Bikies] Ped/Bike/MV Commission: Southwest Path lighting

[Steve Arnold Sun, 09 Dec 2012 18:02:25 -0800](#)

Dear Commissioners:

I regret I will not be able to join you Monday evening, as I have a conflicting neighborhood meeting. I would like to make a few more points before you deliberate this issue. I speak on behalf of my constituents in Fitchburg and many others who use the Southwest Path to get from points south and west of Madison into the urban center, and those who will do so after the path is adequately lighted.

As I mentioned at the public hearing on Nov. 28, I support the lighting plan for two principle reasons: safety for users of Madison's busiest bicycle and pedestrian path, especially during the shorter days of the year, and equal protection of bicyclists and pedestrians, compared to facilities for motor vehicle users. These continue to be very important reasons to support the excellent lighting plan developed by City Traffic Engineering after exhaustive and exhausting public input.

I would add one more consideration now: the precedent for treatment of other urban pedestrian and bicycle paths. Heretofore, the City of Madison has worked hard to properly light bicycle and pedestrian paths for safe use between dusk and dawn, using current and potential trips, ambient lighting, and other considerations as appropriate to prioritize investment. Under these policies, lighting the Southwest Path has been long planned, but delayed by the concerns of neighbors. If this project is further delayed, needed and warranted lighting of other urban bike-ped corridors could also be affected, both in Madison and adjoining communities, for similar inappropriate reasons.

Users on the Southwest Path deserve the same safe facilities as motorists and other bike-ped path users in urban Dane County, and adequate lighting should be provided there and on other busy paths. The staff-proposed lighting plan provides all feasible protections against potential problems cited by opponents of path lighting. Please recommend approval of the lighting plan to the Madison Common Council. Thank you!

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