

From: [michelle sharpswain](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: proposed West Area plan for Sauk Creek bike path
Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 5:29:55 PM

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Hello,

As a resident with a home that faces the Sauk Creek greenway, I oppose the addition of a bike path and lights.

The greenway project, as I understand it, is intended to primarily help mitigate flooding. It's clear the creek needs to be restored to better function. It's also clear this work can be done while maintaining as many non-invasive trees and plants as possible.

We are losing a great deal of green space in Madison, in general, and this green space is home to many different animals and birds and has important environmental impact.

I am a cyclist. I appreciate paths that keep me from needing to use heavily trafficked streets. This proposed path does not serve this function. The roads on either end of the proposed path are easily walked and biked with a high degree of safety. The proposed path is unnecessary. The current dirt/grassy path is regularly used by residents, year round, who appreciate the forest and are happy to walk on unpaved paths.

The proposed path also adds an impervious surface to a space in which the city is trying to reduce flooding. That seems counterproductive.

The homes built along this path were built to face the woods...Having lights back there will be intrusive to many homes. It would be reasonable to expect depreciation of property value with paved path and lights back there. I've known a number of residents who have moved away from houses in other areas of the city (and surrounding cities such as Fitchburg and Sun Prairie) where bike paths were put in because of the intrusive nature of the paths/lights and the perceived increase in safety concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

michelle sharpswain
7558 Red Fox Trail

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"If we want our students to lead creative, productive, responsible lives, we must give them opportunities to learn in ways that have consequences for others, as well as for themselves."

Judith A. Ramaley, National Science Foundation