

To: Transportation Commission

Subject: Legistar File #79278: Complete Green Streets Project Checklist Review and Feedback

Date: August 9, 2023

Dear Transportation Committee Members

My name is Louis Cornelius. I live in Sauk Creek and have been a resident in the Sauk Creek Neighborhood for over 35 years. I am writing to provide feedback on the Complete Green Streets Policy Guide (CGSPG).

I oppose the inclusion of the bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway, which is shown in the guide. As a neighborhood resident, I was not aware that the bike path was included in the CGSPG, and thus, have not had an opportunity to comment on it. I attended the first West Area Plan public meeting on February 6, 2023, but no mention was made that a bike path was included in the CGSPG, which was approved a month earlier. In fact, in a question/answer session after the meeting, city staff presenters were unclear and uncertain about whether a bike path would be included in the final West Area Plan with respect to the Sauk Creek Greenway.

In terms of specific comments on the proposed bike path, the bike path is unnecessary. In recent years, suitable bike lanes have been established on Westfield and High Point Roads, with speed bumps added on Westfield Road to enhance a safe biking route. I understand that the 2000 Transportation Plan did not classify the bike path in the Sauk Creek Greenway as a priority due to the suitable on-road routes in the surrounding areas.

A bike path through the Sauk Creek Greenway will have a significant negative impact on a beautiful and attractive greenway that is nearly 30-acres in size. There are seven (7) designated wetlands that will be impacted by a bike path. The Sauk Creek Conservancy Greenway also has nearly 6,000 trees with an abundance of wildlife, birds, plants and walking paths. The trees provide an earth-cooling, carbon-sequestering, oxygen-providing environment, which will slow the effects of climate change. The construction of a 5,000+ foot bike path will bring in large construction and logging equipment that will change the woods forever and cut down additional trees and supporting vegetation in their path during construction. In addition, the bike path with an impervious surface will likely cause more flooding, not less than the water absorbing tree roots.

Finally, the bike trail does not connect to any other bike paths. There is not a "destination" towards which transportation by bike will be facilitated by the construction of a bike path through the Greenway. It creates a bike path from Old Sauk Road to Tree Lane—an area that is presently safely served by suitable on-road bike lanes on High Point and Westfield Roads.

In conclusion, I request that CGSPG be amended to exclude the bike path from the Sauk Creek Greenway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for this item at your meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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