

From: [Ann Kovich](#)
To: [Zellers, Benjamin](#)
Cc: [Larson, Aidan](#); [Denise Jess](#); [Tao, Yang](#); [Stuehrenberg, Justin](#); [Petykowski, Christopher](#); [Callaway, Renee](#); [Horvath, Linda](#)
Subject: Re: 3/13 TC - email about Bike path in Sauk Creek Greenway
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:50:25 PM

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Hi, Ben. Thanks for the additional information. I will look forward to seeing the West Area Plan next time it's ready for TC review.

Hi, Aidan. Please save Ben's reply email in item #1 for the 3/13 TC meeting.

Thanks,
Ann

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2024, at 12:35 PM, Zellers, Benjamin <BZellers@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Hello Ann –

Thank you for passing this along. I figured I'd share some additional context.

First, I can allay Jenny's concerns that City planners are ignoring the TC – we're very aware of the TC's motion during its December meeting. From our recent West Area Plan public engagement meetings there is certainly dissatisfaction from the nearby neighbors that the Sauk Creek path has not been removed from the draft plan altogether. However, I think it's clear that removing it altogether would be contrary to the TC's direction to leave the path in the plan but recommend enormous caution and study with the exploration of alternatives, and that an east-west connection is very important. There was no "first" or "then if necessary" as stated in Jenny's email below.

As I mentioned to a discussion group during our public meetings earlier this week, where Jenny was a participant, we anticipate reviewing alternative routes with the TC as part of the upcoming process as the full plan draft is introduced then referred to committees for review. We have used the discussion and feedback gained from our December/January visits to UDC, BPC, TC, PC, and Landmarks to help guide development of the plan. The TC's feedback remains clear to us, but if there is a desire by the Committee to reconsider the direction provided at the December meeting please let me know.

I also said to the discussion group that the alternatives review would include such things as looking at such things as car parking impacts, driveways, and street trees. Since there is a separate Sauk Creek Greenway corridor planning process being undertaken by Engineering to develop a concept plan our alternatives review cannot design the corridor, which has sounded like the level of detail desired by greenway neighbors. As brought up during the TC discussions, the Engineering study can only fully look at the impacts of a potential shared-use path if it's in the West Area Plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss,

- Ben

Ben Zellers, AICP, CNU-A

City of Madison Planning Division
608-266-4866

From: Ann Kovich <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 11:11 AM
To: Larson, Aidan <ALarson2@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Denise Jess <djess@wblind.org>; Tao, Yang <YTao@cityofmadison.com>; Stuehrenberg, Justin <JStuehrenberg@cityofmadison.com>; Zellers, Benjamin <BZellers@cityofmadison.com>; Petykowski, Christopher <CPetykowski@cityofmadison.com>; Callaway, Renee <ReCallaway@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fwd: 3/13 TC - email about Bike path in Sauk Creek Greenway

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Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi, Aidan. Please save this email under item #1 for the 3/13 TC meeting. West Area Plan is not scheduled to be discussed at the 3/13 TC meeting.

I am copying everyone who was on the original email - and adding Ben Zellers, Chris and Renee so they can also see this email.

Just an FYI for those copied - we plan to finalize the TC agenda late afternoon today. As usual, TC members will have an opportunity at the end of the meeting on 3/13 to make suggestions for future agenda items for TC.

Thanks,
Ann

Ann Kovich
Email: annelizabethkovich@gmail.com
Mobile: 608-886-2556

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenny Iskandar <jennyiskandar@gmail.com>
Date: March 7, 2024 at 8:20:54 AM MST
To: annelizabethkovich@gmail.com, djess@wblind.org, transportationcommission@cityofmadison.com, jstuehrenberg@cityofmadison.com, "Tao, Yang" <YTao@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: City Planners IGNORED your 12/13 motion Regarding Bike Path in Sauk Creek Greenway

Dear Commissioner Kovich and Transportation Commission members,

The Friends of Sauk Creek are extremely disappointed that city planners did not follow your directive, from your December 13, 2023 meeting, to **first** explore shared-use path connections in the streets surrounding the Sauk Creek Greenway and then, if necessary, to use "enormous caution and study" if the Greenway is to be used. We request that you invite Ben Zellers, to present alternatives, on the nearby streets, at your March 13 meeting.

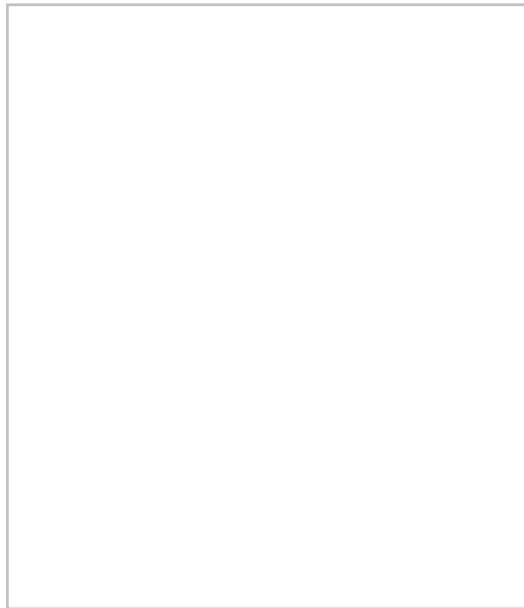
We see no evidence, in the draft West Area Plan, that the city planning department responded to your directive. In addition, at the public meetings this week, Mr. Zellers reported that your commission instructed planners to move ahead with the Sauk Creek Greenway Path without comment.

At your December 13 meeting, many of you commented on the large volume of opposition provided in response to the proposed shared-use path. This included 80+ letters, a petition signed by 300+ residents, and live testimony from many concerned citizens. We have shared this same information with multiple city agencies, Mayor Rhodes-Conway, and city department heads – and **we were IGNORED**. The Transportation Commission has been the only group of city representatives who have listened to us. We are very concerned that the city **planners are now IGNORING you**.

The following map is from page 13 of the draft West Area Plan. <https://plans.cityofmadison.com/westareaplndraft>.

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]--
> Please notice there is a shared-use path shown on High Point Road north of Sauk Creek Park.

- This path could be extended to Tree Lane to **satisfy your request and our concerns** about



further disruption of this environmentally significant cherished

part of our neighborhoods.

- This extended leg would connect with a newly created shared use path on Tree Lane. And ultimately to the new BRT station on Mineral Point Road.
- When asked about this High Point Road extension, at the virtual West Area Plan meeting this week, Mr. Zellers expressed concern in dealing with parked cars and driveways. That would also be the case on High Point Road north of Sauk Creek Park and on Tree Lane -- along with probably 90% of on-street bike lanes in Madison. ***Why is it only a concern from Sauk Creek Park to Haen Family Park?***

If you are not familiar with the neighborhoods of the Sauk Creek Greenway we encourage you to visit before your next vote on this issue. You'll find what we consider to be a model for "all ages and abilities" biking and walking in Madison. The streets surrounding the greenway (High Point Road, Tree Lane, Westfield and Farmington) are all wide streets, and rarely have heavy traffic, large segments have designated bike lanes and other traffic calming strategies. Bikers who are not comfortable on larger streets and those just learning, have cul-de-sacs and side streets, in addition to the already existing path in Walnut Grove Park and the underutilized path behind Walgreens on High Point Road.

The bike commuters in our neighborhoods have indicated that the circuitous route that would be necessary to traverse the greenway (80% of which is surrounded by apartments, condominiums, and single-family homes) would make it useless to commuters and serious recreational bikers.

Please instruct the city planners to extend the planned shared-use path on High Point Road to Tree Lane AND to remove plans for a path through the Sauk Creek Greenway from the West Area plan. Funds for this unnecessary and destructive path should be used to fill TRUE gaps in the west area bike network.

Thank you

,
Jenny Iskandar, 17 St Lawrence Circle
for Friends of Sauk Creek