

From: [Carol Michalski](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive project
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Commissioners,

My name is Carol Michalski and I live at 5528 Lake Mendota Drive. This property has been in my family since the 1920's, first as my grandfather's cottage (an outhouse at the road), then rebuilt as my parents' home and now my family has lived here since 1994. We have enjoyed the laid back feel to this street and have enjoyed walking and biking on it safely with our children and now our grandchildren. It is really a special place where families as a group can walk and talk alongside each other. I have walked with my daughters near their homes on the west side of Madison and it can be very awkward--2 people walk together and 1 follows behind! Let's work to preserve this special situation that we have.

It seems that there is a misconception about the traffic on this street. It is not a convenient cut-through to avoid University Ave. as it has multiple bends and travels slower than University Ave. If headed towards Middleton there is a very difficult stoplight at the top of the hill on Capital Ave. It is very steep and cars have trouble making it up that hill onto University Ave---much easier traversing on University Ave. Coming from Middleton there is not an arrow to allow multiple cars to turn into the neighborhood. I have two 3-year-old grandchildren that I like to teach to safely cross the street. However, when we stop at the end of our driveway, rarely is there a car coming and when there is it usually stops and signals us to cross. We wave them on so that we can learn when it is safe to cross. I highly recommend that some of the commissioners spend time on our street before making sweeping decisions about controlling the hypothetical cars we are trying to control with this plan.

It was also stated that parking was observed on our street. I think it was mentioned that someone came out and observed the parking needs, however, it was in late fall. A more accurate feel for the parking needs would be to come out and make the observations on warm summer days--especially weekends and holidays. It was stated that only about 40% of the survey takers were concerned about parking but if anyone asked me about parking on a street that I don't live on I would also indicate that it wasn't a concern. You need to touch base with the people who actually park there! My block is scheduled to be narrowed and a chicane created. This eliminates parking on both sides of our street!!!!!!!!!! The traffic does not warrant this and it really creates a hardship for those of us who live there. Please, please, please take another look at this.

Our neighborhood has been working very hard to ensure that we move forward with a plan that speaks to the environment and what we can do to help return our lake to the jewel that it was. I was lucky to experience it firsthand. Water management is very important and should

not be considered a second thought. It is not ok to throw more water, with all the salts and pollutants, faster into lake.

We use the water from Well 14 and it is horrible. It tastes like chlorine and it is getting worse. We now have to buy most of the water we use. This project should not continue without addressing this issue and the impact the project will have on the water quality coming out of Well 14. Many of our neighbors have invested up to \$1000 to put in purifying systems.

We, also, must honor the cultural heritage that is such a great part of this area. The 1200-year-old canoe that was brought onto Spring Harbor Beach last Fall made national news and yet we barely recognize the heritage right here in our neighborhood. I'm sure we can do better than this.

The city needs to take the time to explore options for combined sidewalks/streetwalks. Examples are out there and other cities are implementing these ideas. The school, boat launch and beach are busy areas and maybe have different needs than the rest of LMD.

If this project is suppose to be for the future then please slow down, work with us and come up with a solution we can all be proud of.

Carol Michalski
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PS. If we were really concerned about safety, I would ask that the timing of the stoplights at Spring Harbor and University Ave be addressed. Every week multiple cars go through the double stoplight. I have sat through my short green light waiting as a car on University Ave. continues through the lights. The 2 lights are not timed the same and I actually think people do not see the 2nd one.