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To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Bicycle lane gaps
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2021 4:56:40 PM

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Members of the Transportation Commission:

My wife and I have been visiting our son in Madison for the last few days. We live in Boulder Colorado and brought our bikes along with us as part of our vacation activities. We had the great pleasure of leaving our car in the hotel parking lot and enjoying Madison using your plentiful and pleasant bike infrastructure. However, there are three places we've encountered where we either got lost or were terrified, and I'd like to call those to your attention. Of course, I know you often hear only complaints, so I'd like to emphasize that you have some truly great biking facilities that we very much appreciated. Your rail-trails are especially beautiful.

1) S. Broom St. between Doty and Nolen. OMG. We were biking between downtown and Lake Minona, both of which have great, safe bike lanes and paths. But this two block gap was just an awful, adrenaline-inducing, dumping of cyclists onto a street with heavy, aggressive traffic with zero room to ride. Really, really scary, and one that inexperienced tourists are likely to encounter.

2) Crossing the railroad tracks at University and Campus. Heading eastward on University, we were abruptly thrown onto Campus and only then spotted the unconventional left-side bike lane that was not at all clearly marked. We crossed the three lanes of traffic (very, very dicey) and then suddenly there was a rough, diagonal railroad crossing with no room to maneuver to cross it more perpendicularly. Luckily it was dry and my wife and I didn't fall on our skinny road bike tires, but this area seems truly dangerous and should be improved ASAP.

3) Finding the east end of the bike trail between the university and the hospital. We had ridden this rail-trail to State St. one day, but when we went back westward, we couldn't find the beginning of the trail. There were bike route signs through campus, but they didn't lead to the trail. Later our son showed us the route, which was through some parking lots and an unmarked 5-ft sidewalk between two buildings. We would never have found it on our own. Such a lovely facility, but it needs much better signage and a wider path leading to it.

Thanks for your work helping to make Madison a great place to bike. A great city!

Chuck Brock

Sent from my iPad