

From: [Angela Young](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive Project
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Agenda #70626

I am opposed to the current schedule for the city plan for reconstruction of LMD. I represent myself as an individual living on LMD and also as a member of the local organization, Friends of Lake Mendota Drive.

As an individual, I have walked on LMD every day for over 70 years. I realize clearly that it needs repair and change. However, I only heard about the city's plan a few months ago, and due to winter and the pandemic, there has not been enough opportunity to meet and share ideas as is needed to formulate a complex and multi-faceted plan such as this. Although the city experts have worked hard, and the neighborhood has gathered together to share our skills and knowledge, we are not yet able to make a collaborative plan which will cover all the areas to properly care for the environment, the land, and the water of this area. A carefully researched and formatted plan will take care of environmental concerns as well as meet the requirements of city standards. We need time to collaborate with the city to accomplish this. There has not been enough time and we need to slow down the process.

As a member of the Friends of Lake Mendota Drive. I adhere to the mission statement, which is three-fold: to promote cross-cultural understanding of our human relationship to water across time, to provide stewardship of the land and water, and to foster community engagement in recreational and educational activities. To accomplish these goals, we need to take a far-reaching look at how we care for the land and water. Land stewardship is the crucial concern here. Indigenous people took care of the land for centuries. We need to acknowledge their part in the stewardship of this land. We intend to work over time with city experts to complete environmental studies, establish environmentally safe walkways, facilitate safe storm water drainage into right of way areas with gardens, and alleviate drainage into the lake. We know that LMD can be a venue for educational and recreational opportunities in the present and future. We will work with city departments as well as local organizations to turn LMD into a place to practice healthy and safe recreation for all who live and visit here.

As a private citizen and as a member of the FLMD, I commit myself to serving with our neighborhood and city to honor, care for, and preserve the uniqueness of this beautiful Parkway. I will do everything in my power to make positive change to the care of the land, the use of the water, and the memory of those who have made this area what it is. I will help those who visit to learn and understand about the history and culture of indigenous peoples who treasure this land. I will greet and support the visitors who come to our many points of scenic beauty. I will encourage artistic expression with art classes and displays. I will assist in the creation, care and maintenance of gardens to contain storm water. While doing this, I will honor the spirit of the land and water, which allows us to be here. This will be my life mission.

All this will take time. These changes need to be the result of careful research, focused design, and collaborative planning between the experts of the city and the experts of the neighborhood. This can not be done in a hurry. It must be done right. The schedule must be slowed down.

Sincerely

Angela Young

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