



MARQUETTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
A Place for All People - Established 1968
953 Jenifer Street
PO Box 3223
Madison, WI 53704

Board of Directors

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October 11, 2010

Robert F. Phillips, P.E., City Engineer
rphillips@cityofmadison.com

David Dryer, P.E., Traffic Engineer
ddryer@cityofmadison.com

Dear Messrs. Phillips and Dryer,

The Marquette Neighborhood Association board of directors requests a delay in the reconstruction of Williamson Street until 2012 so that additional planning can take place to ensure that this urban retrofit of an existing major Madison street can meet the expectations of new urban ideals.

The board has approved the following resolution:

The Marquette Neighborhood Association (MNA) Board supports more time for a "Green Streets - Complete Streets" planning process for the Williamson Street reconstruction project. That project is currently scheduled to begin in the spring of 2011. While the MNA Board recognizes and supports the need for reconstruction of Williamson Street, pushing the construction season to 2012 for additional planning will ensure that this urban retrofit of an existing major Madison street can meet the expectations of new urban ideals.

Planning so far for the reconstruction has not fully considered the options available relative to: safety for pedestrians; bicycle, pedestrian and vehicle traffic; healthy trees; filtration of storm water; or the influence of nearby regional transit corridors. Specifically, additional time to consider the Williamson Street rebuild would provide:

- Opportunity for planning and design for additional pedestrian facilities such as bump-outs and islands at street intersections.
- Opportunity for planning and funding to bury utilities lines that currently run on the south side of Williamson Street.
- Opportunity for resolution of outstanding concerns regarding rush-hour parking restrictions on Williamson Street.
- Opportunity for planning and design for bicycle facilities such as bike parking at cross streets and mid-block on Williamson Street.
- Opportunity to identify green infrastructure that could be implemented during the rebuild: for example, storm water controls and green islands.

The MNA Board supports a 2012 reconstruction, with the hope that additional time for consideration of options and resolution of outstanding issues will allow for a reconstruction of Williamson Street that meets the full potential of this corridor and this neighborhood.

Please consider our request in your planning for the resurfacing/reconstruction of Williamson Street.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Thornton, President
On behalf of the Board of Directors

Cc via e-mail: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
Alder Marsha Rummel
Jim Wolfe, City Engineering
Christy Bachmann, City Engineering
Donna Sheehan, Greater Williamson Area Business Association (GWABA)
MNA Board