

From: [Haakon Knut](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Bike Path Usage
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Hello.

First, thanks for all your work making this a great city to move around in. Your challenges are no doubt ongoing and dynamic.

I'm wondering what the current plan is regarding bike path usage. I live in Westmorland area.

To me it feels more and more risky to walk on the bike path — not necessarily dangerous (bikers are 99% polite) — but now I use sidewalks instead for stress-free walks. I miss the beauty the path offers, and the joy of not worrying about, listening to, or even seeing automobiles (the best paths are through the woods, of course).

I'm guessing many bikers would prefer our bike paths become bike-only path, as zooming around pedestrians can be tiresome. I understand many of Madison's bike paths are also commuter paths for many bikers, so reduced speed limits might not be a welcome addition.

I know this is an issue being addressed across the country — I've seen paths with two marked bike lines (best when painted) and one pedestrian, but that probably requires pavement expansion, which requires new funding. Still, that seems like a good solution when possible. If funds weren't an issue, those elevated bike paths through cities are wonderful!

I've read about protected bike lanes being another good solution for bikers on streets (seen in European cities), but that's not easily accomplished, especially in a climate where snowplowing roads is necessary. So not a great solution for Madison.

In the meantime, I plan to use the bike path less and less as a pedestrian, especially as I have a small dog (who walks off the paved portion, for safety reasons). The teenagers zooming by me doing wheelies is, well, not surprising given the new technology, but felt like a sign.

This email is less a complaint than an observation. E-bikes are bringing more usage (and less automobile usage), and that's a wonderful thing. I would understand if one solution to the new bike path issues is making them bike-only paths. You can't please everyone — and if this encouraged more bikers in Madison, I think that would be great.

Good luck!

—Peter Narum
564 Park Ln