

Dear Transit and Parking Chair Poulson,

I believe your committee is planning to discuss the regulation of moped parking at your July meeting. I'd like to provide input that I hope you'll include in the committee members' packets.

My position as the Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator for UW-Madison Transportation Services informs the opinions I have about this issue, but let me be clear that they are my opinions alone; I am not (in this email) representing UW-Madison Transportation Services.

Today I was on northbound Park St just north of University Ave, behind an intercity bus that had stopped, I believe to yield to pedestrians crossing Park St at State St Mall.

A moped from behind me didn't want to wait for the traffic, so the operator used the bike lane to pass me, entered the curb cut at the north end of Lot 105 by Humanities, and proceeded to race up the sidewalk on the east side of Park St, past the bust stop shelter, across State St Mall, and the length of the Historical Society, in order to park his moped in the Terrace right off the intersection of Langdon and Park.

I've attached an aerial view I've annotated with the path of his travel that I witnessed, along with a pic of him finally parking at the corner of Langdon and Park.

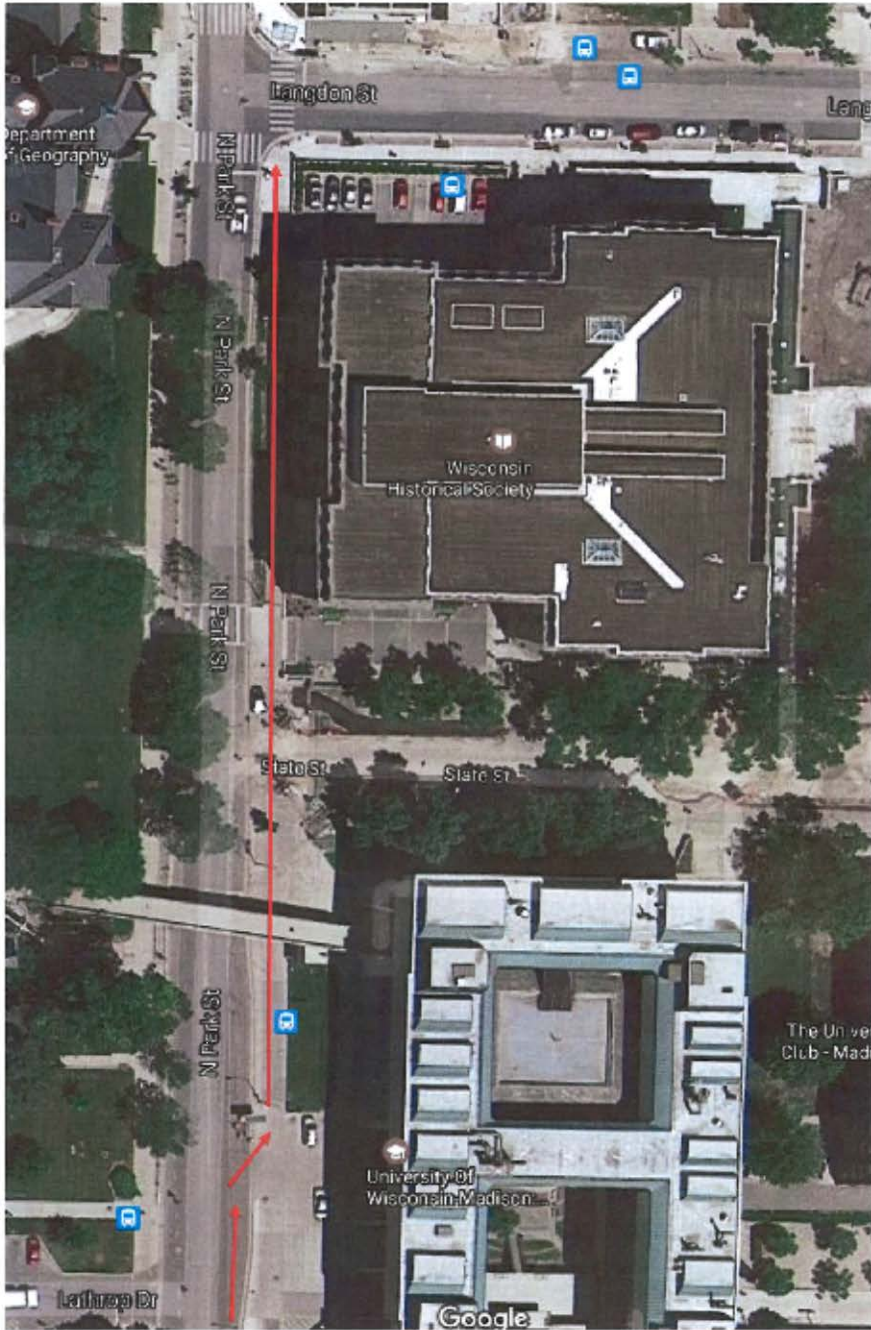
I think this is an excellent illustration of the problem of allowing mopeds to park at bike racks, or in the terrace next to sidewalks. It's not merely an aesthetic issue, or one of competing uses of the space, or of constant maintenance (what used to be grass in the terrace next to Historical Society off Park is now mostly rutted hardpacked dirt), though it is all of those.

More importantly, it's a safety issue since the spaces where mopeds are currently (and legally) parking where never intended to park mopeds, no one has considered how (or whether) mopeds might safely access most of the spaces where mopeds currently park. Although the moped parking in the terrace and at bike racks is currently legal, it greatly encourages behavior that's illegal and unsafe, and often puts pedestrians and other street users at great risk of injury.

It's time for the city to regulate moped parking like any other motor vehicle.

thanks for your time,

Chuck Strawser
1801 Helena St



Moped Permit 16642051 races up Park St sidewalk for an entire block

