

**From:** [m.demars@charter.net](mailto:m.demars@charter.net)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Beltline highway plans  
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Dear Transportation Commission:

I oppose the addition of an additional lane as part of the DOT plan for Beltline highway. While the current study includes some exciting proposals including improved local road crossings, bike and pedestrian connections, park and ride options and transit priority improvements, the inclusion of an additional travel lane is disappointing, ill-informed and short sighted. While WISDOT argues that expansions are needed to fix traffic congestion, almost every highway expansion has seen worse traffic congestion within 2 years of construction ending.

In addition, the plan doesn't take into account these considerations:

- Public health and air quality: There is a high correlation between asthma and proximity to large highways.
- Climate goals: Transportation is a huge contributor to carbon emissions.
- Water quality: More concrete = worse flooding and more water runoff.
- Access, affordability and other transportation options: Billions of dollars of taxpayer dollars go toward highway expansions while our transit, walking and biking infrastructure crumbles (sometimes literally).
- The Yahara River and the UW Arboretum: These local gems are threatened by Beltline expansion, with a wider corridor requiring more land through the Arboretum and with more salt and other runoff polluting the River.
- Safety: More lanes has often worsened the severity of crashes due to increased weaving and larger differences in the speed of cars between the leftmost and rightmost lanes.

Please work on a plan that really speaks to the future instead of just employing the usual “quick fix” strategies that just make things worse.

Thank you

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