

From: [Mike Tarby](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [mpo](#)
Subject: TC Meeting 01/07/26, Item 4 - Beltline Expansion Would Worsen Madison
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Cc'ing the Greater Madison MPO Policy Board

Hello Madison Transportation Commissioners,

The beltline, while an important component of our transportation ecosystem, has too long served as a reminder of a time when our approach to mobility failed to consider downstream effects to community residents. Highways were always meant to connect cities long-distance; when they live within our boundaries, [they instead](#):

- Carve up and divide our neighborhoods
- Introduce high-speed areas prone to collisions and traffic fatalities
- Demand intensive short term planning costs, and long term financial commitments
- Lower the value of adjacent land
- Weaken access to and support of local businesses
- Reinforce infrastructure development based on top-down priorities

Rather than focusing on opportunities to re-connect the areas severed by our local highway, we have prioritized Level of Service and have taken steps to reduce congestion, founded on outdated thinking and unreliable traffic volume modeling. WisDOT- as an entity which has proven itself to be unresponsive to resident needs- will undoubtedly suggest that we must widen the beltline, expand flex lanes, and generally do more to promote car-centric transportation. They'll use traffic projections which have **no feedback loop to determine their accuracy** (as their own employees have confessed), and which **assume that travel habits will never change**, when we continue to see steadily increasing transit ridership, walking, and biking throughout the county. The notion that adding lanes will ease congestion fails to consider the long-term [induced demand](#), created by those very same lanes.

Supporting WisDOT's suggestions would demonstrate support of a saddening misuse of taxpayer funds. Instead, please consider urging the Department to invest in expanding our area's bike network, increasing transit coverage and frequency, and improving street safety.

I deeply appreciate your time and consideration.

All the best,

Mike Tarby

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