

From: [Dorothy](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 11, Legistar #88846
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:59:03 AM

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Date: 7/15/25

To: Madison Common Council

Re: Agenda Item 11, Legistar #88846

From: Dorothy Borchardt

I'm opposed to adding additional fees and property tax burdens on the Madison taxpayers. Many life long Madison residents can no longer afford to live in Madison. We are losing our lower middle income, many of them living on limited incomes, they are being forced to reduce their housing needs to support your wants.

How will you fund the project and the operating budget? The BRT, Men's Homeless Shelter, Public Market, and the Imagination Center are struggling for operating funds ,don't add to the fiscal crisis.

Please vote NO.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dorothy Borchardt

From: [Matt Borman](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Comment on 7/15/25 meeting, Agenda Item 11
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:46 AM

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Hello,

This is a comment voicing my opposition to agenda item 11. I am a fourth generation Madisonian. I come to you with a concern not about whether or how we should make changes to our parks, but I come seeking assurances that any and all changes related to public lakefronts will keep valuable public land in the hands of Madisonians. My concern lies primarily with the possibility that vital parts of the public lakeshore park lands in question could be privatized, and agenda item 11 makes that more likely to happen by removing the requirement for voter approval before not just major construction, but also before changing the legal status of the lands in question.

The project proposal has not been clear about where funding will come from, and acknowledges the possibility of private funding. Meanwhile, there are two spots next to Monona Terrace that are essentially outlined for "possible future development". It doesn't take a wild imagination to see that these uncertainties contained within project proposal, alongside the proposed exemption on item 11, increase the chances that priceless public land is taken out of the public ownership. It also exposes this public lakefront to that risk in perpetuity. At best, the project is too undefined for us to know what's happening. At worst, the possibility of privatization has been kept in vague terms so as to avoid public opposition to the costly loss of public land.

There have been no assurances that public land will be kept in public ownership and not be sold to fund this project, and if it passes, agenda item 11 will remove the requirement to get public approval before privatization.

What assurances can we have from that vital public lakeshore park land will be preserved for Madisonians, not just for the duration of this specific project, but for generations to come. I seek no objections to the project's details and welcome improvements to our parklands. A move, however, that opens up pathways for privatization without public input and without assurances that public land stays public is a massive mistake and disrespect to Madisonians who value their lakefront.

Regards,

Matt

From: [Cindy Carlson](#)
To: [Glenn, Carmella](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Lakeway Project
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:00 AM

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Hello--

I am writing about the Lakeway Project (agenda item 11) and the whether it should be exempted from voter referendum. I ask that you **do not** vote for it to be exempted. For this scale of a project at this exorbitant cost, the residents of Madison should have a say; to do otherwise is to not participate in a democratic process. The mayor and the council are supposed to represent the wishes of the citizens, and not only themselves.

Thank you.

Cindy Carlson

From: [Kelly - Stick People Productions](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Vote no on 88846 Creating Subdivision 8.5(3)(f)
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:30 AM

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Dear Alders,

Please vote not on agenda item

"88846 Creating Subdivision 8.35(3)(f) of the Madison General Ordinances to allow for construction and change in the legal status of certain lands associated with the Madison LakeWay Project. Sponsors: Michael E. Verveer, Derek Field And Carmella Glenn"

Though the Madison LakeWay Project is an exciting opportunity to transform the Lake Monona waterfront, it should not be exempted from the 8.35 ordinance to circumventing the voice of the people. This project is too big and too expensive to just move forward without following the intent of the 8.35 ordinance. This ordinance was approved by the people of Madison decades ago as a check on the council doing major and expensive changes to the Madison lake fronts. What's the point of the ordinance if you are just going to make an exemption whenever it's inconvenient to put it up for a vote of the people like the ordinance requires.

It's undemocratic. I expect this kind of thing from the Trump administration, not the Madison City Council.

I respectfully ask you to vote no on this and let us citizens have their say at the ballot box.

Thank you,

Kelly

Kelly Doering
106 Daffodil Ln
Madison, WI 53714 USA

608-577-6586 | kelly@stickpeopleproductions.com

From: [Gary](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Item #11 on tonight's Common Council Agenda - Opposition
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:22 AM

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I am opposed to agenda item 11 on tonight's Council meeting. Public property possible sale to private interests should not be allowed, and needs to be removed as a possibility in any plan.

Gary Graper
6114 Barton Rd
Madison, WI 53711
Sent from my iPad

From: [Carol Hambrecht](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Opposition to Agenda 11
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:53 AM

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Hello,

I would like to register my opposition to this Agenda. We want a **referendum** on the Lakefront so we can agree to the price tag.

Thanks

Carol Hambrecht
608 N. Westfield Rd. #D
Madison WI
53717

From: [Betty Harris Custer](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Paul Soglin](#)
Subject: Overriding the referendum for the Lakeway Project
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:34 AM

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Alders:

As a lifelong resident and active community citizen, I am a little surprised to only be hearing about this the day of your vote. I do NOT believe that a public referendum should be ignored. I would hope at minimum you would not take a final vote until greater notice can be given to the matter and especially the consequences.

My Dad used to be in charge of swimming instruction on all the Madison beaches....He had to close the beaches when pollution levels including sewage rose to unsafe levels. We are long past when the beaches are fun places for children and families. But they are still a significant part of our isthmus landscape.

I would support wise decisions about this waterway, but I do not support ignoring valid citizen input for that of small clusters of those who make decisions without that regard for all.

Betty Harris Custer
Betty.Custer@custerburish.com
608-332-6425
14 Pinehurst Circle
Madison, WI 53717

From: [Jelly Hayes](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: agenda item #11, scaling back the project
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:26 AM

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Hello, I am opposed to Agenda Item #11 because taxpayers should be able to have voice in whether a project should continue to proceed when the (new) estimated cost is significantly higher than what was originally intended.

-The LakeWay Project must be revisited to be scaled down, the cost is too high for taxpayers to bear. It is an extravagant plan.

-Federal and state funding for this project is in jeopardy, time to update our expectations and priorities. For example, create the 2-lane bike land and not add a beach/lakefront cafe/kayak station etc.

Time to determine priorities and scale back this project.

Jenny Hayes
534 Spruce Street

From: [Anne Miner](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: amendment
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:59 AM

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I live in Madison, and I support the amendment to enable the park project to proceed.

Anne Miner
333 W Main St
Madison WI 53703

From: [Marsha Rummel](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Legistar 88846 support charter ordinance for Madison Lakeway
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:57:07 AM

[marsha.rummel@gmail.com appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. Learn why this could be a risk at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi Alders-

I support putting the Madison Lakeway project to referendum. MGO 8.35 requires it.

When the rehabilitation and reuse of the historic Garver Feed mill in Olbrich Park was first proposed for an arts incubator in 2009, I supported the referendum required by MGO 8.35. But when the proposal fell apart and after the new selection process established Baum Revision as the preferred team, I proposed an exception, since the voters had overwhelmingly supported saving and reusing Garver to create a community benefit

At this point, the Madison Lakeway master plan is aspirational, and the costs are unknown. Yes, there has been a public process for visioning the Lake Monona waterfront and selection of a design team, but there has not been a public process to establish what is a feasible plan, to determine a realistic timeline for implementation, or what it will cost and who will pay for it.

At this point, I understand improvements to the causeway from the master plan are included in an engineering project for redoing John Nolen Dr that you budgeted for and have a federal match to help pay for. Is that the trigger for the exception? Then make that clear. Or are you including all of the ideas for Law Park and Olin Park in the Sasaki plan which include very expensive hardscape and are not vetted yet. I don't support that.

I could see doing more than one charter ordinance as plans unfold for the Lake Monona parkway. But for now we have the improvements to the causeway on the table with knowable costs. I hope voters would support it and wait for more information about all the other components of this plan for a future decisions in future referendums.

You have a responsibility to honor laws initiated by voters through the referendum process.

Thanks for considering and thanks for your service-

Marsha Rummel
1029 Spaight St

Sent from my iPad

From: sas33202@charter.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: DO Not exempt the water front project In Item 11
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:57:22 AM

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You all need to honor the democratic process and ordinance – this needs to come to voter referendum with all the facts and costs disclosed,

Susan Scanlon
33 Cherokee Circle Unit 202
Madison, Wi 53704

From: cssnyder@charter.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Vote of support for Madison Way Project
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:55 AM

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Dear Tag,

We want to give our support for the Madison Lake Way Project, we are unable to attend tonight's meeting @ 7/15/2025 at 6:30.

We vote in support of the amendment: Cynthia Snyder and Martin Saunders.

Thank You!

From: [J Tretow-Schmitz](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: RE: Item 11 on Common Council Agenda, July 15, 2025--Madison Officials Gut Voter-Approved Lakefront Protections for \$320M Project
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:58:16 AM

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Please vote NO on Item 11 on tonight's agenda!

Your constituents are eager to see whether you care to respect Charter Ordinance 65, Section 8.35 which requires a referendum to approve a project of this magnitude.

Thank you.

<https://www.77squaremiles.com/post/madison-officials-gut-voter-approved-lakefront-protections-for-320m-project>

Jean Tretow-Schmitz
502 Glenway St
Madison 53711

Jean Tretow-Schmitz

From: [Robert Wertheimer](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: A Requirement is Just That - Required
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 11:57:47 AM

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As democracy is being deliberately eroded nationally by the Trump regime, I find it distressing that a requirement for a referendum passed overwhelmingly by Madison voters can just be casually discarded because it is inconvenient to follow the law.

If elected officials wish to eliminate the requirement for a referendum they should go to the voters, and make a case for why the referendum requirement is a bad idea, hinders progress, hurts the profits of developers, or whatever reasons they have. Then, if their ideas are valid, voters will agree. That is what democracy is. Pretending otherwise is simply wrong and is genuinely anti-democratic. I am old enough to remember when being anti-democratic was universally regarded as a bad thing by Americans - all Americans.

Sincerely,

Robert I. Wertheimer

Sent from my iPhone