

From: [El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi](#)
To: [Hacker, Marsha](#); [Fleegel, Heidi](#)
Subject: FW: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:38:23 PM
Attachments: [11188EN-Street Option.pdf](#)

Marsha/ Heidi,

Can you please include the email chain below to the 1/ 22/ 2020 Board packet? Also, please include the attached pdf plan.

Thanks

Fadi

From: Huebner-Noblitt, Gaby <gaby.huebner-noblitt@uwex.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:27 AM
To: El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi <FEIMusaGonzalez@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project

Fadi,

Thank you for your reply. We received the mailing with the costs and other information. Unfortunately, we won't be able to attend the public hearing next week. Will my email be forwarded to the Board of Public Works in lieu of my showing up at the meeting?

Gaby

From: El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi <FEIMusaGonzalez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Huebner-Noblitt, Gaby <gaby.huebner-noblitt@uwex.edu>
Subject: RE: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project

Hi Gaby,

Thank you attending last week's Public Informational Meeting and for reaching out and asking about your concerns in regards to the proposed sidewalk on Western Avenue. I will answer them in the same order.

- I have received positive and negative feedback in regards to the proposed sidewalk on Western Avenue. Some people have expressed a need for it while others are opposed to it. The intention of the sidewalk is to fill the current sidewalk gap between Gregory and Western and provide a safe path for pedestrians. With this reconstruction project, now will be a good time to solve that problem.
- I understand your concerns about the environmental impact. Impermeable areas like concrete sidewalks produce more runoff in a rain event. We will mitigate that issue by

proposing storm sewer systems that will collect the extra water. We also include in our design topsoil on the terrace area, which is the space between the curb and sidewalk, to allow better infiltration in a rain event.

- Unfortunately, some trees will be impacted due to the sidewalk installation. I am making sure that our design minimize the impacts as much as possible without jeopardizing the safety of pedestrians and other users.
- I will consult with my coworkers and other departments on how we can address your concerns about this.
- The assessments are based on estimates and not final prices. The final cost will be known at the end of construction in which we will have bid prices and final quantities. The property owners will have the opportunity to pay in one single payment or on an 8-year period. Also, this project will be eligible for the Safe Route grant which will cover 50% of the sidewalk cost. If the project receives the grant, the final cost will reflect the discount.

Please let me know if you have additional comments and questions.

Thank you

Fadi El Musa

Engineer

City of Madison-Engineering Department

210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Rm 115

Madison WI 53703-3342

Tel: (608) 243-5214

Email: felmusagonzalez@cityofmadison.com

From: Huebner-Noblitt, Gaby <gaby.huebner-noblitt@uwex.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 4:12 PM

To: El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi <FElMusaGonzalez@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: RE: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project

Thank you, Fadi.

My concerns relate to the proposed sidewalk on our block (Western Ave.).

- The first question I have is about need. Has someone expressed a need to have a sidewalk in that location? The school perhaps? We have lived at 607 Western for almost 20 years and folks seem to be managing fine without one. Parents drop off their kids and oftentimes park in front of our house. When they get out of their cars, they step on our mulched area, and that is totally fine; then they simply walk on the street to the school. It seems that drivers are very aware that they share the street with pedestrians. I don't think there has ever been an accident. I have trouble seeing the need for a sidewalk. It's such a small block and the little traffic during school is parents and teachers, who are aware of pedestrians.

- My second concern is environmental: I think in this day and age, we should think twice before we put any concrete surfaces into our environments. We are all aware of the effects of too much concrete, pavement, and other solid surfaces. We hear about the problems in the news every day, and Madison residents remember all too well the horrible flooding we had a year ago. So the less concrete, the better!
- Another big concern is environmental as well: According to the plans that were shown at the meeting, we might lose a few mature trees if a sidewalk were to be installed. I know a lot of people cool their houses with A/C, but we don't, as we are trying to limit our carbon footprint as much as we can. Taking down the trees will mean less shade for everyone and higher A/C bills, not to mention the negative effect on the look and feel of the block.
- I'm also concerned about the additional burden a sidewalk puts on us in terms of having to clear it of snow and ice in the winter. Since our street is on a hill, it's especially important to clear it in the winter. I walk down to Monroe Street every morning to take the bus, and walking downhill on a snowy or icy sidewalk is really treacherous! I'd be very nervous about potentially causing someone to slip and injure him- or herself if it's not done right. The difficulty of keeping a sloped sidewalk clear of ice and snow may even lead some people to use chemicals to do the job, thus compounding the harmful effect on the environment. Furthermore, my husband has a disability and it will put a burden on both of us to be responsible for a sidewalk.
- Finally, the cost. I think on one of the slides there was a sum of "up to \$12,000." My husband is on disability and I'm the only breadwinner—coming up with several thousands of dollars for something that in my eyes is not very necessary would be a tremendous challenge. (I'm actually surprised that no one voiced any concerns about costs at the meeting.)

Thank you very much for inviting comments and listening. I know it's a difficult job to reconcile the different needs of all neighbors. I hope we can find a way to preserve our beautiful neighborhood while keeping everyone safe!

Gaby

From: El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi <FEIMusaGonzalez@cityofmadison.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:07 PM

To: Huebner-Noblitt, Gaby <gaby.huebner-noblitt@uwex.edu>

Subject: RE: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project

Hi Gaby,

Thank you for attending last week's Public Informational Meeting in regards to the Gregory, Cross, Copeland, and Western reconstruction project. I am the primary contact for the project reconstruction. Please, send your questions and concerns to me as soon as possible. There is going to be a public hearing next Wednesday 1/22/2020 at the Board of Public Works meeting.

Thanks

Fadi

From: Huebner-Noblitt, Gaby <gaby.huebner-noblitt@uwex.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:30 PM

To: El Musa Gonzalez, Fadi <FEIMusaGonzalez@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Question about Gregory Street, Cross Street, etc. Reconstruction Project

Hello Fadi,

Thank you for the presentation and information you provided at last week's meeting about the Gregory Street, Cross Street,, etc. Reconstruction project. It was very helpful.

I wanted to check with you: are you the person to contact with concerns about the project or should those go to our alder person? I have a few concerns about the project, mostly about the installation of a sidewalk on our street (Western Ave.).

Let me know if it's OK to send my concerns to you, and also by when. I think you said there will be a city meeting soon where some decisions are made, and I don't want to miss any deadlines.

Thank you,

Gaby and Alan Noblitt
607 Western Ave.