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**To:** [Foster, Grant](#); [Transportation Commission](#); [Zwieg, Andrew](#); [Freiwald, Ann](#); [Callaway, Renee](#); [Petykowski, Christopher](#)  
**Subject:** Olbrich Bike Path  
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First off, thank you to everyone that has put time and effort into the Atwood Ave/Olbrich project. As a neighborhood resident for many years, I am really excited to see the continued evolution of this area. I can't wait for the reconstruction to begin!

I'm writing to comment on the proposed multi-use path options through the NW end of Olbrich Park. I use this area multiple times a week throughout the year. I coach soccer for the 9U Cap East team and this is our home field, I bike and walk through this area with my 8 and 5 yr old kids, we access the playground, sledding hill, restrooms, fly kites, it is on my regular running route, and we attend special events in the park and at Olbrich Gardens where we are members. We love and cherish this park.

I have followed the Atwood reconstruction since it was first proposed and have weighed in throughout the process. The original plan of running the multi-use path along the lake (#1) seemed good to me, and even the "compromise" of option #3 I could still support. However, as a couple of residents have proposed a new route around the outside of the park in the name of "safety" and preserving "contemplative" space, I have now become more invested in the outcome of this decision as the proposed option #4 route would be less safe and a worse experience than the decided on option #3 or the original option #1 which I now strongly support. #4 would keep the route closer to car traffic, which is my biggest safety concern as a parent, pedestrian, and biker. It would also add additional elevation which is a concern for my kids and many of the people I see enjoying the lake loop and Olbrich path on a daily basis. The current elevation and grade of the existing blocked off road route is rideable up and down by my 8yr old. #1 as proposed would be as well with the added benefit of eliminating interaction with cars. In addition, access to the restrooms, playground, and fields would be improved via the multi-use path. It would also allow for more year round appreciation of the lake view for users of the path while the majority of the Olbrich shoreline would still remain less developed.

Since this decision has been recently revisited, I have spoken to a number of my friends who live in the immediate neighborhood and frequent the park with their children and they support option #1. I also spent some time in the park with my son this past Sunday while a drum jam was going on, walkers and bikers were using all existing paths, and there was a BBQ going on by the playground. Based on my observation, option #1 seemed to have the best potential to reduce user conflicts and provide the safest multi-use route based on how people were using the existing facilities.

Please consider adopting option #1 with two way bike lanes and a pedestrian lane on the lakeside to further enhance the accessibility, safety, and appreciation for this wonderful park so many people currently enjoy.

Thank you,  
Finn Ryan