

From: [Koval Shawn M](#)
To: [McGuigan, Patrick](#)
Subject: Comment Re: Transportation Commission Agenda Item #60201
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:57:09 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-v1uuxh1p.png](#)

Hello,

I would like to submit a written comment in support of agenda item #60201 -the street closures for social distancing during the COVID-19 Emergency.

As a Dudgeon Monroe resident who bikes and walks in my neighborhood daily, I've noticed the dramatic increase of not only paths but residential streets and sidewalks for active living since the Safe at Home order went into effect. This is a great sign and we should continue to prioritize efforts that encourage residents' safe outdoor physical activity. Unfortunately, there have been several instances when I've been uncomfortable walking and biking along such corridors as Vilas Park Drive because of car traffic, runners, and bikers all having to share the same space. In order to make residents able to practice social distancing and feel comfortable being outside, street and lane closures in popular recreation areas such as those listed in the proposal are a good place to start the process of protecting public areas for health and wellness during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Additionally, I ask the Commission and its coordinating bodies to use this as an opportunity to address inequities in access to parks and active living spaces in the city. I am in favor of closing the streets and lanes proposed in this agenda item, but encourage the Commission to re-visit this topic at its next meeting and look at additional street closures and other measures that could be taken to improve walk and bike-ability in neighborhoods within the MPO's environmental justice areas - particularly on the city's north and south sides.

As Dane County Safe Routes to School Coordinator, I have been in contact with my peers across the country in other cities and towns. Places from Philadelphia to Minneapolis and Portland to countless smaller towns and cities have had success with such measures. There's no question they work in providing safety and supporting the healthy of residents while being minimally disruptive to local activity. I urge you to approve this first wave of closures and start looking at a second soon with input from community members in targeted neighborhoods.

Thank you,

Shawn Koval

**Shawn Koval | Program Coordinator, Safe Routes to School
(He/Him/His; Hablo español)**



Healthy Kids
Collaborative

Healthy Kids Collaborative - UW Health

749 University Row, Madison, WI 53705

skoval@uwhealth.org

Office: 608.265.6846

Cell: 608.698.2366

healthykidsdane.org