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Subject: June 27 Agenda items #5 Highland Ave and #10 UW Hospital D2 addition
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Dear Joint Campus Area Committee,

Agenda Item #5: MMSD & Highland Ave ramp work

The Campus Dr path crossing of Highland Avenue is difficult for bicyclists to navigate due to the small refuge island, the uneven railroad tracks, and the everpresent VA & hospital traffic. It is especially difficult for bicyclists turning on or off Highland Avenue, such as my daughter when she bikes to West High school. There have been seven car vs bike crashes with injury there since 2011. It is also tricky for pedestrians; there've been three car vs pedestrian crashes with injury since 2016, including one this past winter.

In summer 2023 I floated [these design ideas for safety improvement](#); there was interest but I was told there is no project or budget. In spring 2024 I filed a City "Safe Streets" suggestion to try a short-term, low-cost test of converting half of Highland Ave lanes to be "turn only", similar to the test the City did on Segoe and Regent St earlier this year. I believe the City Bikeways and Safe Streets are two grant sources that are appropriately sized for small projects like this.

Highland path Improvements don't necessarily need to be tied to the MMSD sewer interceptor work, but it seems to make sense, at least from a timing and disruption perspective. Even if the only improvement was improved paint -- sharrows, continental crossings, bike boxes, -- that would help quite a bit.

I am available during the June 27 JCAC meeting if anyone has questions about the need for change or design ideas I've presented.

Agenda Item #10: UW Hospital D2 addition

This D2 construction project will create an ongoing traffic hassle that reaches a peak during summer 2025 when Highland Ave is all or partially closed for two months for the MMSD project.

I strongly encourage the JCAC to establish a temporary alternate morning entry to the UW hospital via WALNUT ST when Highland Ave is closed. E.g., adjust stoplights on Old University & Highland + Walnut to increase the inbound flow and have UW Health encourage their employees to use it.

Thank you,

-Craig Weinhold