

From: [John A. Oaks](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Sauk Creek Greenway bike path
Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 5:53:42 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Commissioners,

Could you please tell my wife and I why the City is planning to turn the Salk Creek Greenway walking path into a bike path?

Before I retired, I commuted by bike. It always made sense to take the shortest and fastest route. The SCGreenway is not a short route to anywhere in particular, instead it's a scenic route currently used by walkers of all ages and all abilities who enjoy the coolness in summer and the wildlife all year long. For enjoyment and exercise, as a biker of 81, I and those that have joined me on rides, prefer to ride trails that are of greater distance and NOT asphalt, such as the Military Ridge Trail. If we are typical older recreational, noncompetitive, non commuter bikers, we would not choose to ride a SCGreenway's two block long trail, but as a former commuter, I cannot imagine using the trail to go to work. The biking in the streets is much faster.

Another consideration of the Military Ridge Trail vs proposed plans for SCGreenway Trail is the width of the trail. It is clear that to make it ADA compliant, it must be wheelchair accessible (ramps over curbs, no hill greater than a 5% grade and wide enough to allow wheelchairs and bikes to safely pass). This means 10-12 feet of the asphalt width. I see two problems: 1. surface runoff, less soil infiltration, 2. Greater bike speed. I have a grandson in a wheelchair, who visits often, and know from personal experience with him, speed of passing bikes can be very serious issue.

Lastly, I am concerned that to build a bike trail will require the removal of additional mature and young trees with the loss of carbon sequestration, oxygen production and wildlife. I'm sure you are aware of others concerns including loss of animals as well as plants.

Madison has lost a lot of green space in the 40+ years I have lived here, and it is a major part of the ambiance of this City. Please help to keep it that way, and save the City valuable budget \$'s, as well. Don't build a bike path through the Salk Creek Greenway

Thank you for listening,
John A. Oaks, Professor Emeritus
UW-School of Veterinary Medicine

--

John A. Oaks
Crooked Line Etching Studio
<http://crookedlineetching.com>