

From: [John Mackay](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: comments for Jan. 12 meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:45:00 PM

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Dear transportation commissioners,

I have comments on the projects on Lake Mendota Dr. and Odana Rd, both of which are under item #9. I live on the west side, not in the immediate neighborhood of either project but I use both of these roads.

On Lake Mendota Dr: I support the addition of sidewalks. This road, with its curves and significant pedestrian traffic, makes me nervous both as a driver and a pedestrian.

On Odana Rd: I support the development of protected bike infrastructure here, and more physical protection for bike lanes in the city more broadly. However, I am also concerned that this design with (if I understand the graphics correctly) two westbound bike lanes, one on the north side of the street and one on the south-side cycletrack, is needlessly convoluted and duplicative. With so many shared-use paths in the city, pedestrians are likely to use the cycle track, and if there is already a westbound bike lane on the north side, you might as well give pedestrians a separate sidewalk.

More generally, I am concerned that projects seem to be implemented around Madison with no unified approach to protecting bike lanes, and the lack of a unified design is leading to confusion and conflict between modes. The new buffered bike lanes on Whitney Way and further west on Odana have drivers thinking they can park in them or use them for right turns, while the bike lanes on Bassett at sidewalk level frequently have pedestrians in them. The standard should be that both sides of a street have a sidewalk, and that both directions have a bike lane clearly separated from both the sidewalk and the car lanes. Other cities are developing networks of such bike lanes rather than just a bunch of random one-off projects each with its own approach to separating the lanes.

Sincerely,
John Mackay