

From: [Maureen Rickman](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 11:05:17 PM

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Hello,

I appreciate the hard work of the City in addressing the need to improve the ruts and bumps in Lake Mendota Drive. The City has done due diligence based on the information and procedures they have available to them. Those procedures are flawed, however and do not suit the needs of this neighborhood. The City needs to reject the current proposal for the following reasons.

Environment

1. The City is on the brink of overturning their own street planning process to prioritize the environment for all neighborhoods through the emerging recommendations of the Green Infrastructure Study and Complete Green Streets program.
2. Spring Harbor neighborhood has unique environmental concerns beyond abutting the lake. Inadequately managed stormwater runoff will damage the neighborhood water supply (Well 14) and the historically significant spring (Maąąą' Maą'i/Merrill Spring).
3. The City needs to reject the current plan because it prioritizes acceptance of the 'geometry' of hardscape over longer term sustainability issues that have not been adequately addressed. "Net zero" hardscape expansion is not enough. Stormwater drainage must be prioritized to create long-term sustainable improvements on LMD.

History

1. Spring Harbor neighborhood includes a region designated on the National Registry of Historic Places, but the only evidence of that is a sign in Shorewood Hills next to a small mound group.
2. The City asserts that the plan will not disturb burial sites, which is the bare acceptable minimum. The importance of the Effigy Mounds, the Springs, the Native American historical roads and the Ho-Chunk people that lived here through the early 1900's could be 'disappeared' in the sweep of a concrete mixer.
3. The City needs to reject the current plan because there has not been sufficient time to seek guidance from the Ho-Chunk Nation, the council for the National Register, and independent historians and archaeologists who have a vested interest in preserving the integrity of this region for future generations.

Park and Pleasure Drive

1. In 1892, LMD was created as the first Park and Pleasure Drive the Madison area and then transferred to the City's Park Department in 1938.
2. Other parkways deeded in this trust have retained their intended character (Arboretum Drive, Vilas Drive, Yahara Parkway, etc.)
3. LMD needs to be preserved as the historical parkway that it is. The City need to reject the current plan because there has not been sufficient time to seek input from the Parks department and obtain their expertise on managing the intersecting needs of parks that include residential property.

The City has failed to consider the broader adverse consequences of furthering a colonialist human-centric vision of what a 'neighborhood' should look like. It is unacceptable for the City to impose a 'one size fits all' process to the Spring Harbor Neighborhood. We are not 'Anywhere, USA' and will never be. Please vote to reject this proposal and SLOW DOWN.

Thank you.