

From: [Tanya Cunningham](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Fwd: Lake Mendota Drive Reconstruction Project
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:50:11 AM

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From: Tanya Cunningham <itmakesyousmile@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jan 31, 2022 at 9:53 PM
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive Reconstruction Project
To: <jwolfe@cityofmadison.com>

Dear Mr. Wolfe,

I am a resident of the Spring Harbor neighborhood, I live on Lake Mendota Drive.

I know that several of my neighbors have been in contact with you about the upcoming rebuild project for LMD, and I share many of their concerns.

A leading concern that I share with a great number of my neighbors is that the process leading up to the commencement of this project needs to slow down so that some very important and impactful aspects can be more thoroughly considered. I know that every person feels that 'their street' is special, but Lake Mendota Drive is, in fact, an incredibly unique, historic, natural, community resource, which does warrant additional consideration and effort to be certain that the final design is as 'right' as it can be. So much is at stake.

Being so close to the lake, and in an area where runoff is already a particular problem, affecting not only the lake but also the groundwater, this project requires a very thoroughly vetted process and as many creative approaches as possible to solving some of the very unique problems that exist.

- Minimizing addition of impervious surfaces -- I understand the need to protect the new road surface from degradation at the edges, but full curb and gutter that simply collects and directs even more runoff directly to the lake is not an acceptable tradeoff. Additionally, unless current pavement width is subtracted from roadway and turned into dedicated pedestrian space, simply adding the 30,000 to 60,000 square feet of pavement that would be needed for sidewalks would create an enormous and unacceptable addition to runoff in this ecologically sensitive area.
- Preserving the established tree canopy -- This is also of enormous importance. The mature tree canopy not only provides shade and reduces runoff, it creates the beauty that makes Lake Mendota Drive such a treasure to Madison and its residents. Loss of trees would have a devastatingly negative impact on the beauty and value of the properties, and cause a huge reduction in property values.
- Traffic calming and reduction -- This is obviously an enormous concern for most people who

live on or utilize Lake Mendota Drive for recreation or non-motorized travel. I think that making the drive less appealing to 'cut-through' and commuting traffic is a high priority. One of the most interesting suggestions I've heard is to restrict through traffic at the Madison/Shorewood Hills boundary, perhaps to one-way, or perhaps just to a very slow speed with terrace bumpouts.

I would like to access information on the background of the improvement project on Hillcrest Drive in Madison, which involved adding curbs and gutters, but no sidewalks.

I would like to see a narrowing of the roadway to the minimum legal width, with single side parking (or no parking, if necessary), and the remaining road width used for a special use path (pedestrian, bike, etc). This would create a minimal increase in impermeable surfaces and preserve the tree canopy.

I would like to schedule a meeting to look at and discuss the possible solutions on my block (5400) of Lake Mendota Drive, I will take it upon myself to inform the other residents on this block of such a meeting so that any who wish to may attend.

Tanya Cunningham