

From: [Alice Erickson](#)
To: [Wolfe, James](#); [Transportation Commission](#); [Furman, Keith](#)
Cc: ["Alice Erickson"](#); ["Jeff Bauer"](#); ["Kim&Pat McBride"](#); ["Heather Crade"](#); ["Kristen Slack"](#); ["Herman Felstehausen"](#); ["Angela Young"](#); ["Tanya Cunningham"](#); ["Faith Fitzpatrick"](#); ["khumbu 04"](#); ["Tom Kneubuehl"](#); ["Stewart Ellison"](#); ["Mark Redsten"](#); ["Peggy Scallon"](#); ["Beth Bauer"](#); ["Chuck & Candy Gates/Schrank"](#); ["Linda/Bob Nelson"](#); ["Patricia Boyette"](#); ["Sandra Larson"](#); ["Kate and Dave Eberhard"](#); ["Kate and Dave Eberhard"](#); ["Erik Infield"](#); ["Marie Dietrich"](#); ["Kim McBride"](#); [lesaboat@charter.net](#); ["Janet Loewi"](#); [emetzloff@yahoo.com](#); ["Patrice Kennedy"](#); ["Pat McBride"](#); [stevetiffany@charter.net](#); ["Dave George"](#); ["Herman Baumann"](#); ["LISA A STEINKAMP"](#); ["Derrick Buisch"](#); ["King Aymond"](#); ["tomasz Zal"](#); [Maureen Rickman](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive, Agenda #6
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I wanted to add to a few thoughts but have struggled to clear my mind after the Transportation Commission meeting last week. Obviously, this is an issue that is deeply concerning to the neighborhood, seeing the responses. My thoughts:

- The most critical thing is the state of Lake Mendota and our water source well #14. While this never was the case in past decades, by the end of the winter I feel like I've been living by the Salton Sea. My blue car is white, all the roads are white, my coats have turned white from brushing against my salt covered car. Where is all this whiteness going to go? Lake Mendota. In the summer, it is a different story – after a storm all the water and debris starting at the soccer fields on Mineral Point make their beeline into Spring Harbor creating a brown plumb. To me I see it as a giant toilet flush each rainstorm. Why – because of the constant removal of green space – across University at Craig Ave. it used to be marshlands that filtered the water – no more. So why, at this point in world history, when our environment is so vulnerable, why can't we pause to really discuss how this project is going to affect the waters of Madison for the future. I'm in the later part of my life and my kids don't live in the state, so it won't affect us but it will affect all the children and grandchildren of Madison for generations to come. Madison has been a shining example of progressiveness – one of the reasons I make my home here. Let's make a statement to the country about what we are doing to protect our environment.
- Moving the sidewalk to the north side at the LMD hill on the east. I was stunned that with just a simple comment, this is up on the table. For anyone that lives and experiences this neighborhood, this truly seems like a nonstarter option. For one thing – just compare the number of driveways on the north to the south. There will be a LOT of danger of someone being backed into out of already difficult driveways. The concern regarding people crossing Merrill Springs or Risser is not really valid – very, very few cars use those intersections compared to people coming in and out of the driveways on the north. Again an example that you don't really understand how our neighborhood functions. In fact, has anyone considered totally dead ending those two streets and making them into raingardens to help the rush of water, dirt, salt, etc that flows down them now.
- Sidewalks – I am totally opposed to sidewalks. I think the only risky place in the neighborhood is the stretch between Minocqua Crescent and Spring Harbor Drive. A walk could easily be placed along the park between those streets. That said, if the city insists on sidewalks, I'm still unclear why something like Edgehill Drive (which is on only one side of the road) can't be used. (see attached). The city worries about not having side terraces. There are none on this stretch (and this is also at a hill). A concern about safety – this part of

Edgehill is heavily used as there is a nearby elementary school and swimming pool. I see little kids all the time – walking, playing, on bikes using this. They also manage the plowing. This section is more heavily used than our part of LMD, because not only does it serve Shorewood, it is also the exit point for all commuters using the University Ave. bypass (also known as LMD).

- Finally I wanted to address the behavior at the meeting. I found it terribly distressing to see our Alder jump in (unasked for) and, to me, felt like a scolding towards Maureen. Uncalled for by a city representative. I was also quite insulted by being categorized as a conservative up norther – you do NOT know me. Maybe I am, maybe I'm not – and that is true of the people on this call. But I do know these people – we are NOT! I think a lot of us feel greatly saddened that with some trips to the neighborhood, the city feels it knows the neighborhood. We are hurt that before this all started, no one was considerate enough to come out and speak with us to just have discussions and hear what might be concerns 'before' the pretty much finished plan was finally shown to us. A final note – I was shocked that after a petition of almost 200 people, and all but about 2 people speaking against moving rapidly on this plan, the comment by the TC commission was that there must be people out there wanting sidewalks. So much for the 'voice' of Democracy.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

Alice Erickson

Spring Ct.



