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To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Option 1 for Olbrich Path (70601)
Date: Sunday, March 20, 2022 10:32:34 PM

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Dear Transportation Commission,

This path through Olbrich Park has come before you before. In fact, you might recall my written input from Aug 23, 2021, when there were only 3 options presented. Having provided my input, I was ready to disengage from this process. But now there's a fourth option, and these sequels just keep getting worse.

Option 4 would subject path users to the most elevation and distance. It would represent the least improvement over current conditions, if any. It would put Lake Loop users as far from the lake as possible, and closer to traffic.

People coming to the jetty from the south would have to go 3/4 of the way around the park, including an unnecessary hill. For a cyclist, this is inconvenient, but for someone on a wheelchair or mobility scooter, or a kid heading to the playground, it's just cruel. All for the sake of trying to exile bikes from a public waterfront.

I'm sympathetic to the concerns about tree canopy. Olbrich Park has a lot of open spaces that are used for nothing but grass. There's a lot of potential to plant more trees and rewild that space, to create more habitats for wildlife. It's not just human housing that Madison's short on. But that's not in contradiction with running a path along the side of the lake.

Regarding impervious surface, this Atwood Ave reconstruction will reclaim a lot of that from the road's current overbuilt form. But we can also keep this section of the park's parking lot minimal. After all, Olbrich Park has FIVE other parking lots, plus Olbrich Gardens and adjacent street parking.

Regarding light pollution, I have a friend for whom the shortest walk home from my place would be through Olbrich Park, but she currently avoids it at night. Whereas the Capital City Path is less direct, but at least it's lit. So rather than thinking about lighting in Olbrich Park as an extra nuisance, I see it as a friend's peace of mind, and I want that for her.

This project involves redoing a section of the Lake Loop, one of our city's premier routes. It's used by lots of people of all ages and abilities. Let's take this opportunity to envision how it should be.

Personally I think the Lake Loop should actually get you close to the lake when possible. I get that in Monona, things work differently. The waterfront is mostly privately-owned, but hey, the mansions are a treat to look at too. But here in Madison, where the waterfront is a public park, we should be showcasing that waterfront, not the traffic on Atwood Ave.

But most importantly, let's do away with this misconception that cyclists and other wheeled path users can't coexist with pedestrians, and that bikes need to be exiled from public parks.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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