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To: [Mayor](#); [Transportation Commission](#); [Lynch, Thomas](#); [Phillips, Robert](#); [Petykowski, Christopher](#); [Wolfe, James](#); [Tao, Yang](#); [Callaway, Renee](#); [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#); [Furman, Keith](#)
Cc: [Larson, Aidan](#)
Subject: Lake Mendota Drive
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I am writing to share my personal opinion regarding the discussion about the Lake Mendota Drive (LMD) project at the Transportation Commission on March 9, 2021.

I listened to everyone carefully at the TC meeting on March 9th, I read all the related emails received, and I have watched the recording twice to try and understand the perspective in the emails received about the LMD discussion. In order to understand the intention of any comments made at that TC meeting, it is important to view the recording of the meeting and listen to the full conversation. I believe that City staff and TC members were all professional and respectful when expressing their thoughts and opinions. Some of the thoughts and opinions expressed by TC members just did not agree with those expressed by the residents.

I think City staff is doing a remarkable job of listening to the residents, and then balancing what is safest and in the City's best interest for the public right of way with the residents' concerns. In addition, I believe staff has also made significant efforts to engage with the community using multiple methods, and has taken residents' priorities into consideration when drafting plans for the project.

It is our responsibility as Transportation Commission members to look comprehensively at public works projects and to take action that is consistent with the City's transportation policies and plans. When we look at right of way use and street design, traffic safety issues, bus route/schedule changes, changes in parking rates, etc., we certainly consider feedback received from residents. However, as noted in the Transportation Commission Ordinance, TC members "must be capable of and committed to holding a multi-element, system-wide perspective, on transportation issues." So TC members must balance what is safest and in the City's best interest with the requests and desires expressed by the residents of any directly impacted neighborhood. TC must also consider those voices not heard at the table, in order to appropriately weigh the impact on all parties.

In addition, as TC members implement the City's transportation policies and plans, we are especially concerned about protecting the most vulnerable users of our transportation systems. As noted by TC members at the March 9th meeting, sidewalks play an important role in protecting those most vulnerable users.

Thanks,

Ann

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