

**Matthias, Isaac L**

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**From:** actbiker@charter.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Subject:** Autumn Ridge path/bridge project

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

I write to you today in support of the Autumn Ridge path/bridge project that was originally included in the Hiestand Neighborhood plan developed in 2006. We have been patiently waiting for a safer way to connect our isolated neighborhood with neighborhoods on the north side of Highway 30 for many years. As someone who has lived in the neighborhood north of Milwaukee Street since 1974, I know this neighborhood needs safe pedestrian and bike access to other parts of the city. Every time I walk to UW Credit Union on Commercial Ave. I am concerned for my safety as I navigate the traffic proceeding onto/off of Highway 30. The new path would eliminate these hazards. This path and bridge are also an integral part of future planning for more bike/pedestrian friendly paths in this area going into the future.

The construction of this project has waited a number of years for federal funds to augment Madison's borrowing to finance this project. The 2.5 million dollars in federal funds for this project can not be used for anything else and will be lost to some other city/town with a project ready for construction.

I urge you to reject the amendment that would remove this project from the capital budget.

Jeanne Marshall (she, her, hers), 4522 Hamlet Pl, Madison, WI 53714

## Matthias, Isaac L

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**From:** Harald Kliems <harald@madisonbikes.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Subject:** Madison Bikes supports the Autumn Ridge Path and Overpass

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

I am writing on behalf of Madison Bikes, a local all-volunteer non-profit with a vision to make Madison a city where anyone can ride a bicycle conveniently and comfortably to any place year round.

It has come to our attention that funding for the Autumn Ride path and overpass may be in danger, and we want to express our strong opposition to such funding cuts. We oppose any budget amendments that would put the project at risk.

The path and overpass are of high importance for our city and the region as it implements plans to provide a robust, safe, and convenient path and trail system for the Greater Madison area. This specific area of our city, bisected by State Highway 30, has long been identified as a gap in our network of infrastructure for people walking and biking. The current project will close this gap and greatly enhance safety and transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists by providing an off-street path from Milwaukee Street to Commercial Avenue, including a new overpass of State Highway 30. This will connect the people in several North East neighborhoods to existing and planned paths ultimately to downtown and points beyond, increasing access to employment and providing more mobility options. The project has undergone a full planning process and approved by various city and state bodies and agencies. It is ready to go!

Furthermore, this project is largely funded through federal appropriations (Madison Bikes supported the City's application with support letters in 2022). Withdrawing the local funding match means that we would lose this federal funding, which would be irresponsible.

We urge you to not support any budget amendments that would endanger this crucial safety and connectivity project.

Respectfully,  
Harald Kliems.

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Harald Kliems (he/him/his)  
President  
Madison Bikes, a 501(c)(3) non-profit  
...for a city where anyone can ride a bicycle conveniently and comfortably to any place year round.  
<http://www.madisonbikes.org>

## Matthias, Isaac L

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**From:** Erik Paulson <epaulson@unit1127.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:24 PM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Cc:** Mayor; Wolfe, James; Finance  
**Subject:** capital budget: please continue to support the autumn ridge bike safety improvements

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders -

My understanding is there may be an amendment coming from the floor tonight to reduce funding in the capital budget for the Autumn Ridge bike path improvements, I hope that you would set aside that change and continue to support the project as-is.

Information about the project can be found here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/autumn-ridge-path>

but briefly, the project uses a combination of federal and city dollars to create improvements to the Autumn Ridge Bike path (mostly in D3 but some D15/D17 linkages) - the centerpiece of which is a new bike/ped bridge that will cross over Highway 30 - roughly halfway between Walmart/N Thompson Dr

This is a critical and long-awaited safety upgrade for bicyclists and pedestrians on the east side. Currently, the only way to cross HW30 is an underpass with dual roundabouts at N Thompson - where there is heavy traffic exiting and entering 30 at high speeds while whipping around the circles.

The Sherk/Whitehorse attendance area - schools that are steps from Olbrich - extends all the way into District 3 and 17 on the north side of HW 30. That's an hour walk but 15 mins on a bike, and with this bridge those kids would have a safe trip on bike paths and bike routes right to their school.

This bridge will be a key link in the future east side bike network, connecting Olbrich and Garver to the new neighborhoods in Voit Farm/Starkweather and then to Sycamore and to East Towne and then all the way out to the future Reiner Neighborhoods that are coming in the 2040s and beyond. Additionally there is a redevelopment opportunity for a huge parcel of the former American Family campus at 51/30 that is just in the earliest stages - a project that could both attract a higher quality project from having the bike path there as well as open up connectivity for biking to cross 51 and making the highway 30 bridge even more valuable - this could be a once-in-generation opportunity. I think this project is as big a deal as the Cannonball Trail bridge over the beltline, which moved bikes off the dangerous Todd Drive underpass and onto a safe path.

There is no doubt that we are going to build this path and bridge someday. It will not get cheaper in the future, and we have secured federal dollars now to fund a significant part of the costs. To cut this project now would be fiscally irresponsible, needlessly expose Madisonians (especially kids) to more danger, and slow down our progress with improving our bike network, a crown jewel in our civic assets. Please, keep the project on the path forward.

Thank you, and thank you for your service to Madison.



## Matthias, Isaac L

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**From:** Craig Weinhold <cweinhold@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:28 PM  
**To:** All Alders  
**Subject:** Capital projects / Autumn Ridge Hwy 30 bridge

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Madison has many exciting capital projects in its budget that you'll be discussing tonight. One that is going to make a real difference is the Autumn Ridge path and bridge over Hwy 30.

This project (supported by federal infrastructure dollars) will bring together neighborhoods that might as well be in different galaxies today. It will also create a new north-south bike corridor that leads to East Towne-area businesses and future Sun Prairie connections.

I hope the Common Council continues to support this important bridge and path project.

Craig Weinhold