From: <u>Sara McGaughy</u>

To: Transportation Commission; Conklin, Nikki; Mayor; Wachter, Matthew; Stouder, Heather; Lynch, Thomas; All

Alders; Tao, Yang

Subject: Transportation Commission Agenda item #3 Legistar file number 77560

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 4:17:52 PM

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Hello,

We are writing to you to vehemently oppose the proposed bike path in Sauk Creek Woods.

We are very opposed to a 10-12 foot wide, 3 lane, lighted, gross asphalt path through this last tract of natural woods on the West side of Madison. What a terrible idea!

There WILL be unintended consequences. It WILL cause run off into the creek. It WILL cause hundreds to a thousand more trees to be cut down. We beg you to walk through these woods to truly understand why the Friends of Sauk Creek formed to try to save this very special environmental area. So many **ages and stages**, ALREADY use on the multiple existing paths every day, even bikers as Ben Zellers showed via Strava mapping.

Our society craves trees, green spaces and natural areas as seen by how many, of all ages and stages, utilize the existing paths and greenway space daily.

We are very concerned, and we have not been able to have a meaningful two-way dialogue with the planners to relieve our concerns. We find out we are being quickly dismissed by dept heads who had decided our opinions and input meant nothing. This is authoritarian government, not democracy. I thought Madison was better than this. It's one of the reasons why we moved here in 2015 to raise our family.

Please listen to the people who actually live here! We do NOT want this gem destroyed!

Especially you, Mayor --- we thought you were the environmental Mayor? Are you or aren't you?

Behavior is a language, and supporting the destruction of Sauk Creek Woods speaks volumes. It's one thing to say you care about the environment, but another to actually do so.

Sara and Seth McGaughy 13 Plover Circle Madison, WI 53717