Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Planning Division

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To: City of Madison Transportation Commission
From: Rebecca Cnare, Jeff Greger - Southeast Area Plan Project Managers
Date: June 3, 2026
Subject: Southeast Area Plan – Recommendation of Approval

Background

The Southeast Area Plan was introduced at the May 5th Common Council meeting and referred to Transportation Commission as part of its review and approval process. Introduction follows the release of Draft Actions and Maps and public feedback and review which can be found on legistar.

The Transportation Commission reviewed public engagement and draft Transportation Actions and Maps at its December 3,2025 meeting. The draft Southeast Area Plan and its actions are very similar to those presented with some revisions.

Draft Plan Highlights and Changes

The Southeast Area Plan coordinates with WisDOT on HWY 51/Stoughton Roady Study by advocating for the 35 mph Urban Boulevard option. The Plan also recommends closing gaps in the sidewalk network especially along major streets, routes to schools, and community facilities. Along with closing gaps in the sidewalks, the plans recommend improvements in safety for pedestrians and bicycles on major arterials.

Proposed Transportation Actions

1	Close gaps in the sidewalk network shown on the Sidewalk Network Map a. Prioritize new sidewalks through the Safe Streets Madison Program as streets are reconstructed, and along major streets and close to schools and community facilities which may be constructed through state and federal grants. b. For projects that add sidewalks, explore options to preserve existing large trees.
2	Improve pedestrian street crossings of Milwaukee Street, S Stoughton Road, and Cottage Grove Road, with particular attention to: a. Evaluate potential traffic signals or rapid flashing beacons/continental crosswalks on Milwaukee Street at Thompson Drive and Swanton Road. b. Install rapid flashing beacons and/or continental crosswalks at non-signalized intersections, prioritizing Walbridge Avenue and Johns Street. c. Work with WisDOT to improve pedestrian safety and lighting under the S Stoughton Road over passes at Cottage Grove Road and Milwaukee Street.

3	Evaluate and improve street lighting for pedestrian safety on Piccadilly Drive, Trafalger Place, and Thompson Drive
4	Make these bicycle facility improvements: a. Use colored pavement markings to highlight bike facilities at intersections along Milwaukee Street to highlight potential conflict zones. b. Install a bike box or colored pavement at the intersection of Cottage Grove Road and Monona Drive to increase the visibility of bicyclists making left turns from Cottage Grove Road to Monona Drive. c. Explore a wayfinding sign project on the Garver Path, Sherry Park Path, the Capital City Path, Autumn Ridge Path and other off-street multi-use paths to direct visitors to area schools, parks, libraries, restaurants, and shops. d. Upgrade the Cottage Grove Road bike lane to All Ages and Abilities (AAA) standards.
5	Improve the multi-use path crossings at major streets as identified in the Safe Streets for All Program.
6	Install traffic calming measures and traffic lane markings to improve safety on Milwaukee Street, Kurt Drive, Swanton Road, and Thompson Road.
7	Study the potential for traffic calming measures in the Secret Places and Lost Creek Neighborhoods, especially at pedestrian crossings near Marsh and Siggelkow Roads.
8	Study potential new traffic signal(s) at Fair Oaks Avenue and STH 30.
9	Explore a "Community Main Street" Complete Green Street designation for Milwaukee Street west of S Stoughton Road that is safer for pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles and supports local businesses and mixed-use development.
10	Connect City streets to former Town of Blooming Grove streets after property is attached to the City in 2027.
11	Consider a north-south Metro Transit route that connects to LaFollette High School and employment centers east of Hwy 51.
12	Assess the need for bus shelters/benches at bus stops without a bus shelter and consider programs such as 'adopt a bus shelter' for maintenance.
13	Consider adding a bus route to connect job centers with apartment complexes on Thompson Drive and Swanton Road neighborhoods.
14	Once the City has a Curb Management Framework, identify appropriate solutions and strategies near schools, parks, and community facilities to increase access and safety for all curb users.

Proposed Partnerships:

A.	Encourage and explore public/private funding partnerships for installation of bicycle share (B-Cycle) stations near community activity centers: Milwaukee Street by Woodman's, US Post Office; Cottage Grove Road near Acewood Boulevard and Atwood Avenue; Monona Drive near Dean Avenue and Pflaum Road.
B.	Continue to coordinate with WisDOT on the S Stoughton Road / US 51 Corridor redesign to ensure changes to the corridor align with the City's vision for land use and transportation as discussed in this section to reduce speed, increase safety and connections, and make S Stoughton Road a wide urban boulevard with redevelopment opportunities.

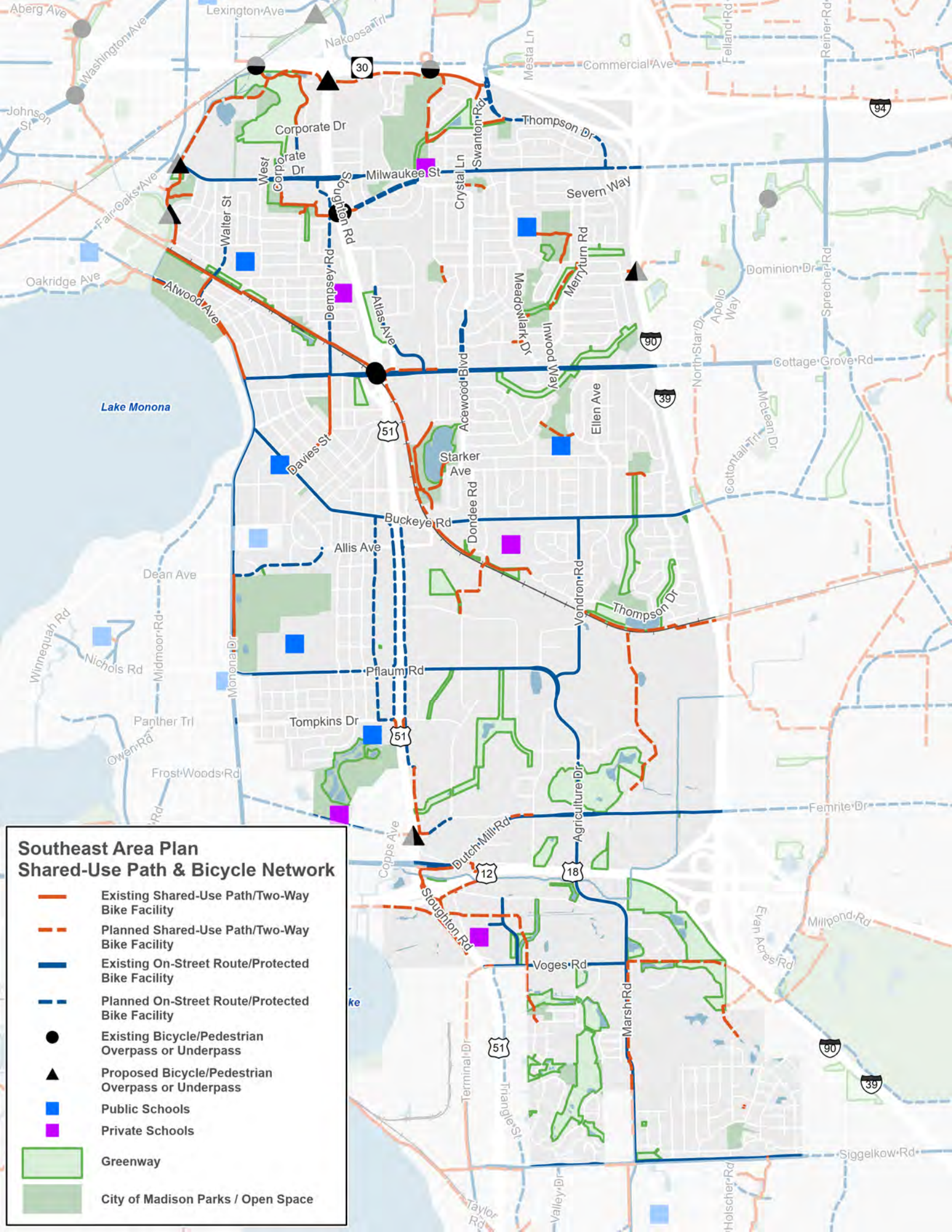
C.	Coordinate with WisDOT on future Beltline studies and projects to achieve increased access and safety improvements for bicycle, pedestrian and transit and improve access to businesses and neighborhoods to the south
D.	Coordinate with WisDOT on Interstate Project to achieve increased access and safety improvements for bicycle, pedestrian and transit for streets that cross the interstate.

Request to Transportation Commission

If Transportation Commission recommends revisions to the Introduction Draft being considered, those revisions should be included in any motion made. Plan Commission, as the lead body, will review these revisions and make a final recommendation to the Common Council.

Attachments

1. Revised Shared Use Path and Bicycle Network map
2. Southeast Area Plan Final Draft attached to Legislative File
3. Transportation Commission presentation attached to Legislative File


Southeast Area Plan
Shared-Use Path & Bicycle Network
Existing Shared-Use Path/Two-Way Bike Facility
Planned Shared-Use Path/Two-Way Bike Facility
Existing On-Street Route/Protected Bike Facility
Planned On-Street Route/Protected Bike Facility
Existing Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpass or Underpass
Proposed Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpass or Underpass
Public Schools
Private Schools
Greenway
City of Madison Parks / Open Space
Lake Monona
Aberg Ave
Lexington Ave
Nakoosa Trl
Washington Ave
Johnson St
Mesta Ln
Commercial Ave
Felland Rd
Reiner Rd
Corporate Dr
West Corporate Dr
Stoughton Rd
Swanton Rd
Thompson Dr
Milwaukee St
Crystal Ln
Severn Way
Fair Oaks Ave
Walter St
Dempsey Rd
Oakridge Ave
Atwood Ave
Atlas Ave
Meadowlark Dr
Merryturn Rd
Inwood Way
Dominion Dr
Apollo Way
Sprecher Rd
North Star Dr
Cottage Grove Rd
Acewood Blvd
Ellen Ave
Cottontail Trl
McLean Dr
Davies St
Starker Ave
Dondee Rd
Buckeye Rd
Allis Ave
Dean Ave
Vondron Rd
Thompson Dr
Winnequah Rd
Nichols Rd
Midmoor Rd
Monona Dr
Pflaum Rd
Panther Trl
Owen Rd
Tompkins Dr
Frost Woods Rd
Femrite Dr
Agriculture Dr
Copps Ave
Dutch Mill Rd
Stoughton Rd
Millpond Rd
Evan Acres Rd
Voges Rd
Marsh Rd
Terminal Dr
Triangle St
Siggelkow Rd
Taylor Rd
Valley Dr
Holscher Rd
30
94
90
39
51
12
18