From:	Nicholas Davies
To:	Plan Commission Comments
Cc:	falch.ryan@msnairport.com; jeff.manzetti@meadhunt.com; Quamme, Jeffrey; Mayor; Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina
Subject:	No to giving up the city"s ownership stake in the airport parking project (94181)
Date:	Sunday, August 9, 2026 11:26:28 AM

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Dear Plan Commission,

I'm opposed to Dane County Airport's proposed redevelopment of their existing economy lot, to extend it into a newly acquired parcel that connects all the way to Darwin Rd. This will expand motor vehicle storage capacity, while doing nothing to make walking, biking, or transit more practical and competitive options for getting to and from the airport.

Just like you cannot add lanes to solve the problem of congestion, you cannot solve the problem of parking demand by adding more parking. This will merely induce more demand. The real solution is to diversify the transportation options.

This newly discovered parcel means that the city has an ownership stake in the project--an ownership stake that could be used to improve the project, and even to directly address the problem of parking demand more effectively than Dane County Airport's own plan would do so.

The city could use its ownership stake to ensure that a redesign of the economy lot includes a path connection down to Darwin Rd for cyclists and pedestrians. The reality is that if the economy lot connects to Darwin Rd, people will cut through the lot regardless: distance corresponds to time much more for people walking and biking. So it's in the interests of Madison's Vision Zero goals (and Dane County's VMT reduction goals) to have the design of this lot take bike and pedestrian traffic into account.

The city could also use its ownership stake to provide a location for a Bcycle station at the airport. This could have a direct impact on reducing auto traffic around the airport, and giving people more options for getting on/off the airport property. I've corresponded with Bcycle on this, and they'd love to put a station at the airport, if there could be space allotted for one.

The city could also properly landscape its parcel according to Madison zoning code (something that airport administration is seeking not to do), and thereby show the airport administration that wildlife are not a threat, and not to be eliminated from an ecosystem that was theirs long before it was ours.

Birds that would be attracted by low trees--chickadees, goldfinches, cardinals--do not fly at airplane height, and also do not pose a substantial risk, while birds that do fly at airplane height--vultures, hawks, geese--will not be deterred by a lack of landscaping. For example, the open asphalt of roadways often attract hawks and vultures, since it allows them to clearly see their prey/carrion below.

Because of this, I see it as a mistake to give up ownership of this parcel, and abdicate any ability to improve the parking project.

Thank you,

Nick Davies
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