

**From:** Gundega Korsts [mailto:gk@korsts.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2009 11:44 AM  
**To:** Schmidt, Chris  
**Cc:** Stroick, Jule  
**Subject:** Specifics of support for Midvale Heights-Westmorland neighborhood plan

Dear Chris Schmidt --

It's a delight, and reassuring, that the Midvale Heights-Westmorland neighborhood plan is being well received. I add my resident's voice in support.

The two best points that jumped out at me from reviewing plan documents once more -- and I do thank you for the thorough link -- are **care for the bicentennial oaks**, and a long-term plan to get **bicycle lanes on all arterial and collector streets**.

The great old oak at Segoe and Mineral Point is still flourishing, but has some signs of stress, with dead branches sprinkled across the top. I've been hoping it's not just up to the landowner to care for this treasure. That great trunk is planted on private property, but surely we can ask the city forestry folks to look after any needed trimming for a city treasure.

The bicycle path going up on Midvale is a good sign. I don't see construction past Mineral Point, so apparently the lane won't go all the way to Hilldale and University Avenue. Will the parking lane become a bike lane there. (That would certainly preserve the trees in the median.)

I'm only a mile and a half or so from Hilldale, so I can combine biking and walking when weather and time allow, but the Allied Drive neighborhood needs a simple route, bus or bike, to reasonable grocery stores.

Living at Sequoya Commons, I'm obviously new to this address, but I'm not new to the neighborhood. I've been living here, or two blocks into Monroe-Dudgeon, since 1991, and walking through the neighborhood from a home nearby since the 1970s. It's good to see preservation and adaptation going on side by side, with the best foresight we can manage.

\* \* \* One of our neighbors still doesn't like Sequoya Commons, not even though it's a building with front windows on all sides and filled with a great diversity of happinesses, so I wrote a song for them (attached), to the tune of Sweet Betsy from Pike.

Thanks again, --G. Korsts

PS: I know what an arterial street is, but what defines a collector street?

PPS: For the record, it took most of our first year at Sequoya Commons for my spouse to find the least hilly, least trafficky bicycling route to the UW Medical School campus. There's no direct bus to that hospital campus, not from here, so when it's not biking weather it means a walk down from or up the hill to Regent and Speedway.

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Gundega Korsts, Science Editor  
555 S. Midvale Blvd., Unit 327  
Madison, WI 53711-1419  
608-240-9725 (landline) or 233-7472 (cell)