

Hacker, Marsha

From: Susan Clark [clarkski2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 8:10 PM
To: Tolley, Sabrina; Hacker, Marsha
Subject: Proposed bike path lighting
Attachments: Letter concerning proposed bike path lighting.docx

I hope this letter is not too late to get to the members of the Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission and the Board of Public Works concerning the proposed lighting for the bike path.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Susan Clark

November 27, 2012

Dear Honorable Members of the Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission and the Board of Public Works:

I am a member of the Bike of the Bike Federation of Wisconsin and an avid bike rider, both as a commuter and as a recreational biker. I can easily put on 2000 miles or more on my bike a year.

As a single woman (approaching 60 years of age) I am opposed to the lighting of the bike paths for the simple reason as I feel lighting makes lone bikers, especially women an easy target for would be muggers on the bike path.

If I am biking down an unlit path with my bike lights I have more than enough light for safely riding and avoiding obstacles, animals and people on the path. People can see me coming by my lights, but people cannot tell that I am a woman biking down the path. If the path were lit people can tell I am a lone woman not a 300 pound muscle bound man riding the path in the dark.

Before I bought my house on the North East Side of Madison (where bike paths are almost non-existent) I commuted to my job on the East Side from Verona. I road on the bike paths from Military Ridge in Verona to the Stadium. In the fall and winter I would often ride to and from work in the dark. The only place I did not feel safe was on the stretch of path that was lit near Allied Drive. I did not feel safe due to the reasons already mentioned.

The only incidents on the bike path that I am aware of, where people have been attacked is in lit areas – that is, areas lit by the sun, done in broad daylight. If people are being attacked during the day in broad daylight why would lighting the path at night make it any safer.

Finally, when I go for a walk at night, I go so that I can see the stars and the moon and the wonderful night skies, sometimes even the northern lights. If the bike paths are lit, you will rob walkers of these wonderful sights.

Thank you for your time and the careful consideration of the ramifications of this project. I think the money could be better spent buying helmets for children or putting bike paths in on the North East side of town.

Sincerely,

Susan Clark
1122 Debra Lane
Madison, WI