#### SAVE THE JEFFY BIKE PATH

Members of the City Council,

Attached a letter of 81 individuals (plus other supporters since Sunday) seeking a change to the 2015 Capital Budget that would replace the Jeffy Bike Path built just 1 year ago with a street next year at a cost of \$500,000 (Item # 24 of the Engineering Capital Improvement Program). In the 2014 budget, the City's Capital Budget indicated that the Bike Path would not be replaced with an extension of the Jeffy Trail street until at least 2019. Our neighborhood and the users of the Bike Trail received no notice of this proposed significant change in the timetable and discovered this just this weekend.

Our neighborhood loves are new Jeffy Bike Path and knowing City's public commitment to make Madison a walkable, bikeable city we are bewildered why the City Council would support replacing a brand new bike path with a street without any neighborhood notice or input.

Our Alderman, Lisa Subeck has pledged to introduce an amendment to the Budget at tonight's City Council hearing that would delay the replacement of the Jeffy Bike Path with a street for at least a year to give time for neighborhood discussion and input. My understanding is that Alderman Subeck has reached out to some of you and is encouraged that the Council will adopt her amendment.

Our ask of you tonight is to Support Alderman Subeck's amendment to the budget to delay for at least one year the replacement of the just built Jeffy Bike Trail with a street through Conservancy lands to give the neighborhood an opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Matthew Stanford and Members of "Save the Jeffy Bike Path"

#### SAVE THE JEFFY BIKE PATH

November 8, 2014

Lisa Subeck District 1 Alder, City of Madison 818 S Gammon Rd # 4 Madison, WI 53719

Dear Ald. Subeck,

We have just learned that the Mayor's Executive Operating Budget includes \$500,000 to replace the Jeffy Bike Path with a street that will connect the existing Jeffy Trail to Raymond Road. While this action had previously been scheduled to occur in 2019 per the 2014 City Budget, there has been no notice or discussion with the neighborhood regarding changing this time table.

Our understanding is that the City Council is poised to vote soon on adopting a final 2015 Budget, and we ask you to oppose the Mayor's proposal to spend \$500,000 to replace the Jeffy Bike Path with a street in 2015.

We ask you to oppose this expenditure for several reasons:

- The bike path created just 1 year ago receives heavy use by the neighborhood. Last year, the city built the Jeffy Path Bike Trail as a connector to the Ice Age Junction Bike Path. Since then, the Jeffy Path Bike Trail has received heavy use and is a significant asset to the neighborhood.
- The street that will replace the bike path is a "road to nowhere." The Mayor's proposed extension of Jeffy Trail does not connect the neighborhood to other neighborhoods. Instead, the extended Jeffy Trail simply ends at Raymond Road, which itself is slated to dead-end at County PD when the intersection of County PD and County M is rebuilt in 2016.
- The street that will replace the bike path will cut entirely through newly a newly acquired Conservancy and a wetland that the City and County have been working to restore. In 2013, the City of Madison purchased land on either side of the Jeffy Bike Path and Ice Age Trail Bike Path and set it aside as a conservancy. The proposed street will cut entirely through the new conservancy. In fact, no new private property would be served by the street. Replacing the Jeffy Bike Path with a street will significantly change the character of the land the City just purchased to serve as a greenbelt for the Ice Age Bike Path. Further, the street will require a crossing of wetland that the City and County have been working to restore over the past 8 years.
- We are concerned that the extension of Jeffy Trail will serve as an unintended detour through the neighborhood during the reconstruction of County M and PD in 2016 and 2017. Because the City has not completed the connection of the 4-lane High Point Road between Raymond Road and Midtown Road, commuters have alternatively used Marty Road as a thoroughfare something that street was never designed for. We are concerned that until High Point Road "gap" is completed, commuters will continue to find alternatives, and that the new Jeffy Trail extension will serve as a new such alternative for commuters. This is an even bigger concern considering that County M and PD will be under significant construction in 2016 and 2017. Building the Jeffy Trail extension in 2015 prior to the completion of the County M and PD construction will likely result in commuter traffic using Jeffy Trail as a thoroughfare something that Jeffy Trail is not designed for.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, there has been no notice to or input sought from the neighborhood regarding the Mayor's plan to drastically move up the time table for the replacement of the Jeffy Bike Path with a street.

As a neighborhood, we are working to continue to raise awareness of the Mayor's plan regarding Jeffy Trail, and look forward to hearing from you and working with you, the City Council, and the Mayor's office to see what can be done to halt the replacement of our neighborhood's bike trail with an unnecessary street.

P.S. Congratulations on becoming our new representative to the State Assembly!

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