MEMORANDUM

TO: Common Council

FROM: Madison Food Policy Council

RE: Draft Comprehensive Plan

DATE: August 3, 2018

The Madison Food Policy Council, as the only official policy body with expertise and responsibility for food issues, created a Work Group to provide feedback throughout the Imagine Madison comprehensive planning process beginning in January of 2017. For over eighteen months, we have worked diligently with staff to provide input and feedback during every phase of the process; we have also consulted five boards and commissions to refine and support food-related elements of the Comp Plan. Overall, we are very pleased with the Strategies that focus on food and agriculture in the plan and respectfully request that members of the Common Council support the list of revisions described on the second page of this memo.

There is one issue, however, we believe the Comprehensive Plan should acknowledge more directly. While Planning Division staff has worked to accommodate our requests to include references to food-related policy, we are still concerned that the final document may not fully acknowledge the serious need to address continuing loss of productive farmland near our major urban area. A simple comparison of the Growth Priority Areas map (page 16) with the Productive Agricultural Soils and Natural Limitations for Building Site Development maps (pages 141 and 143) illustrates the challenge very well. We believe it will be important for staff and policy makers to **balance the strong community values that support local food and the preservation of farmland, as expressed during the Imagine Madison process, with development interests as the city grows**. As the Food Policy Council pursues the Effective Government action to create a future regional food systems plan, it will be important to face this issue and better balance the desire for development with an almost certain need for local food production. Meanwhile, the following revision in the current draft would clarify the Comprehensive Plan's recognition of this very important planning issue:

> Land Use Strategy 6 (as currently revised) reads "Facilitate compact growth to reduce the development of farmland." Its actions suggest approaching Neighborhood Development Plans differently, favoring redevelopment and infill, and including "agrihoods" as an appropriate neighborhood design. In the proposed revision to introductory language on page 19 of Attachment 43, we suggest revising two words in the first sentence of the second paragraph so it would read as follows: **The strong community preference for infill and redevelopment need not be taken as a demand for eliminating edge growth**.

The Madison Food Policy Council respectfully requests your continued support for the following Strategies and revisions, all of which have been supported by the Madison Food Policy Council and a number of other boards and committees noted in parentheses:

Land Use: Strategy 6 recognizing that the value of agricultural land was not considered in past Neighborhood Development Planning efforts. (Sustainable Madison Committee, Plan Commission)

Neighborhoods: Strategy 8: Restoring the sentence "Access to healthy food is one of the most basic life-sustaining strategies of the Comprehensive Plan." (Board of Health, CDBG, Housing Strategy Committee, Plan Commission)

Economy & Opportunity: Strategy 7 broadening the focus to include other areas and resources in the city, and acknowledging the regional food system and replacing the graphic on page 70 with one that illustrates the importance of the food sector in the local economy. (Economic Development Committee, Plan Commission)

Culture & Character: Strategy 3 adding food to the list of elements that help to create community spaces. (CDBG, Plan Commission)

Green & Resilient: Strategy 9 adding an action to develop guidelines for best practices when growing food in the city and a definition of "sustainable agriculture" to the Glossary. Language was also added to suggest "agrihoods" as an approach to balancing development with farmland preservation, and a definition added to the Glossary. (CDBG, Sustainable Madison Committee, Plan Commission)

Effective Government: Strategy 1 to pursue regional solutions to regional issues includes creating a food systems plan. (Economic Development Committee, Plan Commission)

Thank you for your consideration and support.
Madison Food Policy Council through its Comp Plan Work Group members: Martin Bailkey, Marcia Caton Campbell, Lindsey Day Farnsworth, Nan Fey & Kyle Richmond

Laatsch, Kirstie

To: Stouder, Heather
Subject: RE: City of Madison Comprehensive Plan- potential addition

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, August 05, 2018 4:59 PM
To: All Alders [redacted] Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: City of Madison Comprehensive Plan- potential addition

Dear Alders,

Below is a potential addition to language in the Comprehensive Plan which I hope you can support.

CITY OF MADISON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Introduction (pg 30 of draft-May 1, 2018)

Paragraph 2

While is it easy to accommodate growth, it is a challenge to grow in a way that successfully builds upon the city's strengths. Without guidance, development can happen in a way that is most convenient and profitable in the short term, with little regard for the long term impacts on the city and its residents. With that in mind, how does the city create great neighborhoods? Where can all the residents with a desire for urban living go when the city's older neighborhoods aren't getting any bigger. Is enough space designated for new and growing businesses in the Generalized Future Land Use Map, especially as the ways commercial space is used rapidly changes? How do all these new residents and employees get from one place to another without overwhelming the city's streets and highways, ***and negatively impacting existing neighborhoods?*** *(please consider adding this bolded, italicized section to the plan)*

Land Use and Transportation – Strategies (page 30)

7. Maintain **downtown Madison** as a major activity center for the region while improving access and inclusivity.

****

Strategy #7 highlights the need for systems such as listed below

PEACH Roads. Preserving Environment and Community Heritage

Source: Cobb County DOT

PEACH Roads Overview

November 23, 2010

State of Georgia

Catgories (of consideration for PEACH Roads)

- Quality of Life-community, growth, and development, access, noise, safety, pollution, public space
- Leadership-teamwork, stakeholder involvement, infrastructure integration, extend useful life
- Resource Allocation-reuse and recycle, reduce materials taken off site, energy consumption
- Natural world- preserve habitats, wetlands, farmland, manage stormwater
- Climate-greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutants, climate threat, adaptability and heat island effects

More on PEACH roads can be found here:
https://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/dot/projects/peach_roads_handout_april2013.pdf

http://www.georgiaenet.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/5.7-Wilgus.pdf

https://cobbcounty.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=801&Itemid=2921

other Sustainability Rating Systems

- National Level

  Invest-FHWA
  Envision-Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and Harvard
  LEED ND-US Green Building Council

- State Level

  Greenroads-Washington DOT, U of Washington and CH2M Hill
  GreenLites-NY State DOT
  I-Last-Illinois DOT

- Local

  PEACH Roads-Cobb County, GA (based on GreenLites)
  STARS-Portland, OR

I respectfully ask, as one of many individuals who live on one such access point, Winnebago Street, that the lens through which transportation and land use decisions are made reflect standards such as the above.

Anne Walker

Laatsch, Kirstie

To: Stouder, Heather
Subject: RE: Comprehensive Plan-potential change to language-phtoremediation, etc

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 10:58 AM
To: All Alders <[redacted]>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comprehensive Plan-potential change to language-phtoremediation, etc

Dear Alders

Please see the attachment which outlines some potential changes in language to the
Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Anne Walker

Additions to the Comprehensive Plan

Under the section **Green and Resilient** (page 92)
Strategy 5 Improve and preserve urban biodiversity through an interconnected greenway and habitat system

Action:

a. Improve Greenways to Support Habitats

Linking parks and open spaces is not only valuable for humans. An interconnected greenway system also allows wildlife to move among habitats. Improving our biodiversity supports wildlife, such as pollinators and birds, in many ways
Greenways should be kept as "natural" as possible. In addition, it is essential that we continue to analyze our greenways and open spaces to determine changes to enhance them. Some of the primary methods for enhancement include bank stabilization, ***phytoremediation, minimizing compaction of soil,*** and reducing invasive species ***using methods that are compatible for wildlife.*** (addition to sentence is in bold and italisied)

b. Integrate Vegetation

paragraph 2 Madison should support integration of vegetation into the built environment. Methods such as terrace plantings, living walls, ***vines,*** and green roofs, and urban agriculture should be integrated wherever possible to support biodiversity and increase equitable access to the myriad positive health benefits associated with contact with nature. (addition to sentence is in bold and italisized)

****

definintion of phytoremediation for glossary:
the treatment of pollutants or waste (as in contaminated soil or groundwater) by the use of green plants that remove, degrade, or stabilize the undesirable substances (such as toxic metals)(Source Merriam-Wesbster Dictionary)

For use in phytoremediation sidebar on page 92:

Phytoremediation is a slow but lower-cost process— using plants to clean toxic soils, groundwater, surface water and sediment—that can be used during this dormant period. This remedial process has been employed locally (...) and across the country on sites both large and small.
In Chicago, former gas station sites were cleaned through phytoremediation for reuse as pocket parks. Phytoremediation is most effective on sites with moderate amounts of pollution but has been used successfully to address a range of contaminants, including those in landfills, wood-treating facilities, military bases, fuel-storage sites, sewage treatment plants and mining sites.
According to the US EPA: Phytoremediation can occur even if the chemicals are not taken into the plant by the roots. For example, chemicals can stick or sorb to plant roots. Or they can be changed into less harmful chemicals by bugs or microbes that live near plant roots...Plants grown for phytoremediation also can help keep harmful chemicals from moving from a polluted site to other areas. The plants limit the amount of chemicals that can be carried away bythe wind or by rain that soaks into the soil or flows
off the site. (Source: Chapter 4 City of Birmingham Natural Resources and Environmental Constraints)

phyto-remediation could also be included on page 65 under c. Brownfields:
PHYTOREMEDIATION
In phytoremediation, plants remove a variety of contaminants from brownfield sites, including heavy metals, radionuclides, chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, PCBs, pesticides and others. Plant types must be selected for local conditions and for the types of contaminants to be removed. Plants typically used to remove arsenic, for example are Chinese brake fern, sunflower and highland bent grass. Lead removal uses blue sheep fescue, Indian mustard, wheat and ragweed. Plants should be harvested, the soil retested and the planting cycle continued until the soil contaminants decline to an appropriate level. Some plants are "hyperaccumulators" and must be disposed of as hazardous waste when harvested. A small bioremediation project was implemented north of the railroad tracks to Morris Avenue between 15th and 16th streets.*
** Kaja Kühl, From Brownfields to Greenfields: A Field Guide to Phytoremediation, 2010*, http://urbanomnibus.net/.
https://www.birminghamal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CH4_NatResources-EnviroCons.pdf
(Source: Chapter 4 City of Birmingham Natural Resources and Environmental Constraints, sidebar)

Laatsch, Kirstie

To: Stouder, Heather
Subject: RE: Comprehensive Plan-Land Use and Transportation (pg 44) Possible Strategy Addition

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 7:18 AM
To: All Alders <[redacted]>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Stouder, Heather <HStouder@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Comprehensive Plan-Land Use and Transportation (pg 44) Possible Strategy Addition

All

I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Comprehensive Planning process. I was hoping to add one more addition. On page 44 of the Comprehensive Plan Draft, I was hoping to add a Strategy, #10.

Strategy #10 in the Land Use and Transportation section on page 44.

- **Explore implementation of a Sustainability Rating System to encourage community and environmental considerations in transportation design and developments. Such a system could include considerations such as: Air pollutants, safety, noise, access, stormwater management, energy consumption, heat island effect, pollution, community and habitat preservation**

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully

Anne Walker