

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I have seen the Draft Milwaukee Street Special Area Plan, including the Draft Alternative Conceptual Land Use Plan. At the Eastmorland Community Association (ECA) meeting August 14th, Mr. Dan McCauliffe reiterated the plan with a short repeat of the power point presentation he had given earlier at the last public meeting. (My schedule did allow me to attend that public meeting.) I among others at the meeting take exception to the plan for extending Buckingham Lane to Milwaukee Street and Dawes Street to Silver Road. Mr. Dan McCauliffe was quite resistant to our ideas of improved bicycle and walking paths and maintenance of the existing road structure of dead ends for both Dawes and Buckingham. We suggested he consider another alternative plan that maintains the road structure as it is at present, or consider that as a possibility, to your commission. Here is a partial list of objections many of us have to this alternative plan:

1. The neighborhood is on record of opposing a road running from Milwaukee St behind Woodman's to Dempsey Road. 776 adults signed the petition in 1989 ("We the people of Eastmorland, are adamantly opposed to a road running from Milwaukee Street behind the Woodman's property and over to Dempsey Road [must be 18 years of age or over to sign]") The city acceded to this in perpetuity. We should not have to re-argue this point. Part of the extension to Buckingham includes this modification. 20 years and a new plan does not change the rationale for the original petition nor does removing 2 dead-ends materially improve esthetics of movement into or through the neighborhood.
2. The extensions divide Silver Road Greenway and Eastmorland Park from continuous parkland into 2 segments. Children will have to cross at least one street and possibly 2 to enjoy the existing park. The most used area of the park nearest the Buckingham Lane entrance would be bisected with the ball diamond and playgrounds separated by a road too close to play areas. Additionally one of the play areas would have to be eliminated by the extension of Buckingham Lane.
3. At present, Dawes Street acts as a bike path with reduced competition from cars. Bikers enter via OB Sherry Park from Fair Oaks Avenue (and soon from the Capital City Trail from the proposed bridge over Starkweather Creek connecting to Starkweather Dr). Bikers can then enter the bike/pedestrian path through Eastmorland Park to the bridge over Stoughton Road. The extension of Dawes Street would increase vehicle traffic and their competition with bikes.
4. A common activity for many, involves walking (with or without dog) through Eastmorland Park to Milwaukee Street or Silver Road and then, back through the neighborhood via Schenk Street or Richard Street. More streets and traffic with less peace and calm would interfere here.
5. The Capital City Trail exits on Ring Street and also at Ontario Park near the access of Buckingham Lane. Again a route lacking automobile competition.

6. There are already signs in the terrace on Buckingham Lane asking drivers to slow down. The signs are primarily a result of construction on Schenk and Richards Streets. Through traffic would continue to increase speed on both Dawes and Buckingham. We already have speed bumps on Schenk and would certainly need their inconvenience on both Dawes and Buckingham if the dead-ends are removed.
7. The proposed design would encourage traffic coming off Stoughton Road and Highway 30 to use Buckingham Lane as shortcut to Atwood Avenue and traffic coming off East Washington Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue as a shortcut to Monona Drive.
8. Short of filling in the marsh segment of Eastmorland Park, the land gained by extending the park into Woodman's area is lost by streets and sidewalks. The cunette also divides new parkland from the rest of the park, (The cunette is behind Woodman's to Milwaukee Street and will be an interruption to park use and will not be cured by road building.)
9. A bridge over the Silver Road cunette (ditch) and the cunette behind Milwaukee Street will increase the habitat for the West Nile mosquito vector. The intersection of the Silver Road cunette and the cunette running under Stoughton Road and behind Woodman's is already one of the hot spots for West Nile mosquito reproduction. A new bridge over the cunette will increase habitat for mosquito larva. Right now, insecticides are required to reduce the mosquito problem that exists. We would prefer no additional use of insecticides (BT or otherwise)
10. Buckingham Lane and Dawes Street are already well connected with Milwaukee Street. The intersection of Dawes and Buckingham is already well and conveniently travelled and is not in need of "improvement".
11. Many of the residents of both Dawes and Buckingham and others on cross streets enjoy the neighborhood because of the quiet and safety of the streets with easy access to Milwaukee Street and Stoughton Road. Making an extension to Dawes and Buckingham has no added benefit to anyone in the neighborhood nor does it improve connectivity to the new Milwaukee Street development.

Note: I bought my house because it was on a double dead end and next to, at the time, a well used but quiet park.