

From: Harald Kliems [mailto:kliems@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Hatfield, Meagan <MHatfield@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Public comment to TPPB, regarding Winter Bike Facility Maintenance

Dear Meagan Hatfield:

Could you please forward this email to the members of the Transportation Policy and Planning Board?

Dear Members of the Transportation Policy and Planning Board:

I am writing to you about item F.5 on today's meeting agenda, " Winter Bike Maintenance Next Steps."

This is a topic I deeply care about for several reasons. My wife and I live on Madison's near west side and we don't own a car. Bikes are our main means of transportation, year-round, and so we rely on usable bike facilities year-round, every day of the week. As a car-free household, we may currently be a minority in Madison, but I would like to remind you that according to American Community Survey data, about 12% of all households in Madison are car-free. Many more households are car-lite, or would like to get rid of their cars. It is therefore crucial that we enable this growing population to be able to get around by bike, foot, and bus no matter the season.

Our growing city has committed itself to become more sustainable, and so we need to take steps that enable people to opt for non-car transportation options. We have a tremendous network of bike facilities, and we can leverage the investment in these facilities by making sure they are usable year-round.

I greatly appreciate the work that has already been done in identifying possible next steps to getting our winter bike facility maintenance to the next level. I would like to support the following specific recommendations in front of you:

1. Arterial paths are maintained on weekends and holidays

To me this is the most important improvement. Not only does it allow people who don't have a Monday-Friday work schedule to get to their job and enable non-work trips; more importantly it also improves the situation *during* the work week. All too often do we see a major snow event on a weekend day, and by the time Monday morning comes around, the snow has turned to ice, become rutted, etc., and it is much more challenging to get the paths into usable condition. I don't know if there recently have been changes already, but I was very pleased to see the path clearance on New Years Day and some other weekends. It really made a difference.

2. Clearing windrows at path crossings

Again, my perception is that this has already improved this winter. But we need to keep working on getting our intersections and curb cuts clear quickly. This is an issue that affects not only people on bikes, but maybe even more so people walking, especially if they have impairments to their mobility.

3. Make information about which paths are maintained to which standard easily available

As an experienced bike rider, I have a good sense of which facilities are usually cleared and which ones are not, at least on my side of town. Publishing a map of the maintenance service level standards on the Bike Madison page would help others find this information as well.

4. On-street parking restriction policies

This is an area where so much progress could be made. Clearing our arterial bikeways is great, but for almost any bike trip, there will be a portion of the trip taking place on city streets (with or without bike lanes). Parked cars make it impossible to properly plow the streets and create dangerous pinch points for people on bikes. In my previous hometown of Montreal, parking restrictions that allow complete snow removal are comprehensive and strictly enforced. I would appreciate if we could follow a similar model in Madison.

5. Improve problem reporting and use complaint data to improve maintenance

I will regularly report snow clearing problems through the Report-a-Problem portal. Overall my experience has been good, but this seems like an excellent opportunity to collect and summarize information and develop improvement plans accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Harald Kliems

6 N Allen St

Madison