

**From:** [David Benforado](#)  
**To:** [McGuigan, Patrick](#)  
**Cc:** [Karl Frantz](#); [Bidar, Shiva](#)  
**Subject:** Transportation Commission Meeting on Wed., April 15 (re request to register in support and speak regarding Agenda Item F7, Univ Ave project geometry)  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 12:23:10 AM

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Greetings,

Regarding the Transportation Commission's virtual meeting on Wed., April 15, I request to register in support and speak regarding Agenda Item F7 ("Approving roadway geometry for the reconstruction of University Avenue from Shorewood Boulevard to University Bay Drive"). To expedite matters for the Commission, my remarks will be roughly as follows:

**Remarks of Dave Benforado, President, Village of Shorewood Hills, to the City of Madison Transportation Commission (April 15, 2020).**

1. My comments that follow are in support of Agenda Item F7 (Approving roadway geometry for the reconstruction of Univ Ave from Shorewood Blvd to University Bay Dr).
2. For the last two years, the Village of Shorewood Hills has worked very closely with the City of Madison Engineering and Traffic Engineering Departments, as well as KL Engineering, on this particular project. We appreciate the partnership. We appreciate City Staff taking the lead on this project. We have participated in monthly project meetings for the last few years. We have participated in all of the public input sessions, listening to the comments made, and worked with City staff to make responsive changes where viable and appropriate. We have a high regard for their commitment to improving this  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile stretch from various transportation mode perspectives (pedestrian, bike, mass transit, BRT, vehicle), from an overall safety perspective, and from a throughput/efficiency perspective, all the while making it as economic a project as possible.
3. This particular stretch of Univ Ave one of the busiest roadways in Wisconsin, averaging approximately 54,000 cars each day. And this particular stretch of Univ Bay Dr has the highest daily vehicle count of any connecting road to the north of Univ Ave between the UW-Madison Campus and Allen Blvd in Middleton.
4. The Village is responsible for 50% of the local cost for the road construction portion, in large part because the Village is responsible for maintenance of the westbound Univ Ave lanes. This project will be a substantial financial undertaking for the Village, probably the most expensive infrastructure project we have ever participated in. Our contribution will approximate one year of our total Village operating budget.
5. The Village supports the proposed roadway geometry as presented. In particular, the Village supports:
  - a. The additions of sidewalks on the north side of Univ Ave and on the east side of Univ Bay Dr to the north of Univ Ave.; these new sidewalks will greatly improve pedestrian access and safety.
  - b. The dual left turn lanes from eastbound Univ Ave onto northbound Univ Bay Dr. This will allow that busy intersection to clear more quickly, in turn allowing for more east/west throughput.
  - c. The addition of a safe bus pullout area on the east side of Univ Bay Dr, just north of Univ Ave.
  - d. Making this stretch of Univ Ave BRT ready.
  - e. Adding a structured overpass over Univ Bay Dr for the multi-use east/west path parallel to and just north of the railroad tracks. This overpass would be the culmination of over 20 years of diligent work and planning, connecting the Blackhawk and UW-Madison Campus multi-use paths and avoiding a very dangerous at-grade crossing. A brief history:

i. In 1999, the Village shoehorned in the Blackhawk Bikepath south of the Blackhawk Country Club golf course and south of the tracks and added bike lanes on an improved Locust Drive. Later we rerouted the path from the north side of the Village Pool to the south side, shoehorning it in just north of the railroad tracks.

ii. In 2007, we began a 12-year journey culminating last summer in the construction of the new section of the Blackhawk path just north of the railroad tracks and south of Marshall Court between University Station Shopping Mall and Univ Bay Dr. This new stretch of multi-use path and the proposed connecting structured overpass over Univ Bay Dr were prominent components in the 2009 Village Comprehensive Plan: [https://www.shorewood-hills.org/vertical/sites/%7B00D5AF3F-ADFE-4173-AF3A-FC0C1A78DA4B%7D/uploads/comp\\_plan\\_final\\_091215.pdf](https://www.shorewood-hills.org/vertical/sites/%7B00D5AF3F-ADFE-4173-AF3A-FC0C1A78DA4B%7D/uploads/comp_plan_final_091215.pdf).

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Many thanks.

Dave

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