



To: Members of the Madison Plan Commission

From: Alexis London, Executive Director, Bayview Foundation

Re: Triangle Monona Bay Plan Amendment

Date: February 19, 2021

Via email <pccomments@cityofmadison.com>

In my role as the Executive Director of Bayview Foundation, I've been in coordination and communication with Bayview residents on the topic of the proposed new north/south road on the Triangle for the last three years. Consistently, residents have expressed concerns about the City building a full vehicle access road between Regent Street and West Washington Avenue, citing worries in regards to safety, accessibility, traffic, noise, and neighborhood cohesion since the beginning.

In an effort to evaluate current feelings and attitudes about the road and to share new information about Alder Evers proposed amendment, in early February 2021, Bayview distributed a simple, Plain English and pictorial-focused survey to residents asking them their opinions and preferences once again. Over 70% of respondents selected the road design that limits access north of Braxton Place to pedestrians, bicycles and emergency vehicle access only, as proposed by Alder Evers. On the survey, many residents further reiterated their concerns about the safety of small children and elderly residents and increased traffic in the neighborhood.

The majority of Bayview residents are clear in their desire for a street design that meets the needs of the community at this time. They've been clear in their preference to limit vehicle access in the neighborhood and instead focus on increased walkability, accessibility, greenspace and community cohesion. Alder Evers proposal achieves these goals without sacrificing the need for emergency vehicle access.

The opportunity to envision and define "connectivity" that focuses on human-level interactions within a car-free environment is extremely exciting and important in all neighborhoods, but especially in a neighborhood like the Triangle that is surrounded by busy, fast moving urban streets. Residents are hungry for more greenspace and opportunities to connect with each other and their neighbors. The proposed amendment offers an opportunity to create a public plaza-like space that promotes walkability, bikeability, placemaking and community building in the neighborhood.

The issue of equity is front and center within City planning at this time. Approving a road design that aligns with and honors the wishes, priorities and needs of the residents of the neighborhood is crucial in the pursuit for equity.