

From: [Justin Pugh](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: West Washington Avenue Bike Lanes
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Hello,

My name is Justin and I'm a resident of Grandview Commons in the City of Madison. I wanted to write in and voice my support for adding bike lanes on West Washington Ave when it is resurfaced.

I have lived in Madison for almost 5 years now, and one of the things that attracted me to Madison is how bike friendly it is - specifically, the Platinum rating from the League of American Bicyclists. Last year, I biked approximately 4,000 miles mostly within the city and outlying areas.

Madison has an extensive trail network, and the city should be proud of that. However, there are significant gaps that create dangerous situations for cyclists. West Washington Ave, as it is currently, is not a road I even want to *drive* down, let alone bike down - and I'm an experienced cyclist who is not unaccustomed to riding along with motor vehicles. West Wash is poorly marked (is it one lane, or two lanes in each direction?) and, at times, heavily trafficked.

Some of the most dangerous situations for cyclists are those where we are forced to fend for ourselves on roads with high speeds and traffic volume, with no bike accommodations - or bike lanes appearing and disappearing seemingly at random. For example, the -only- sensible route for me to get to downtown Madison from my neighborhood is Cottage Grove Rd. The city claims that Cottage Grove Rd has a "bike lane", but in areas where the bike lane is shared with street parking (like across from Pizza Hut), it becomes dangerous or impossible to ride in - especially during winter. The bike lane is barely even marked as such (few signs, almost no pavement markings - no green paint, etc).

With the proposed future plans for Mifflandia, and on a major road in the heart of downtown Madison ... why on Earth would we not add bike lanes now? Please don't make another Monroe Street mistake. I encourage anyone against W Wash bike lanes to ride a B-Cycle down Monroe St, trying to squeeze in between parked cars and the adjacent lane, trying not to anger the cars behind you. It is a harrowing experience, to be sure. Imagine doing that with buses and other traffic on West Wash.

If the city wants to encourage more people to bike to their destinations and reduce car trips, there needs to be safe and comfortable infrastructure for cycling. The paths are great for recreation, but they often don't help people with the "last mile" of their trip, or getting from one path to another (gaps in the trail network). The paths are also becoming increasingly congested, to the point where they are not viable as a reliable route for transportation.

Madison is starting to fall behind other cities when it comes to on-street infrastructure. I visited Minneapolis last year, and was shocked by how many streets had protected bike lanes, many of them on one side of the street but bi-directional for cyclists. The bike lane was

"protected" from vehicles using plastic bollards. It may not sound like much, but it really felt more comfortable to ride on - it tells motorists "this is a space for cyclists". We all know how big of an issue texting and driving is, and a painted lane does nothing to prevent a car coming up and running you over from behind because they're not paying attention (sometimes I get buzzed by a car and watch their tires encroach on the bike lane as they pass me).

Long story short ... I firmly believe West Washington Ave needs bike lanes. But I also want to draw attention to the fact that a simple painted bike lane is, quite honestly, the bare minimum the city could do. I believe Madison can and should do better. Regarding parking concerns ... there are multiple city parking ramps within a few blocks of the proposed project area. With West Wash poised to become an important transportation corridor with the addition of BRT, do we really want to prioritize parked cars?

Thank you for your time,
Justin