

From: [Robert Olson](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Opposition to Whitney Way buffered bike lane, item 7 of 4/28 Transportation Commission meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:37:42 PM

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Dear members of the transportation commission, I am writing to express my opposition to converting the existing parking lane to a buffered bike lane on Whitney Way between South Hill and Sheboygan. I live on Whitney and am a bike commuter, regularly traversing the entire stretch that is proposed to be converted. My experience has been that this stretch is among the safer parts of my commute, as the parking lane is wide enough to safely accommodate both parked cars and passing bikes. I can appreciate that a buffered bike lane might be more inviting to less-experienced riders, but I'm unconvinced that the actual (as opposed to perceived) safety of the road for bikers would be appreciably changed. In contrast, I do support the lowered speed limit, as I believe that represents a real opportunity to improve safety for bikers and pedestrians.

I've seen comments made by some that the benefits of the buffered bike lane outweigh the costs -- but as far as I can tell, those same commenters are not the ones bearing the costs. Those are borne by the residents of Whitney Way -- and most distressingly, our guests. I live in the middle of a long block; with very limited parking available on the nearest side street, an invitation to my home would come with an implied two block walk. This is not the end of the world, but it is a real cost, and it falls upon the people I most care about, my friends and family.

Interestingly, the costs are greatest at the same times that the benefits are least -- in inclement weather, late in the evening, in the coldest days of winter. At these times, bikers are few and far between, while the inconvenience of a long walk is greatest. Here lies an opportunity to maximize the benefit to bikers while minimizing the cost to the neighborhood: time of day restrictions on parking could allow bikers to keep greater distance from motorized vehicles during the busiest traffic periods while allowing residents and their guests to park on the street during quieter times. I would fully support this sort of compromise, and I encourage you to consider it.

Best regards,
Rob Olson
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