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Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 1:53 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: July 6 Common Council Meeting, agenda item 65898: University Avenue Plan approval

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I strongly support the University Avenue Reconstruction Plan (agenda item 65898) **except for one glaring oversight:**

- The final 2022 University Ave reconstruction plans have **no on-street bike lanes.**
- That choice is backed by **flawed** justifications:
 - "the right-of-way has no room for bike lanes" -- ***the corridor is tight for two lanes, but it definitely can handle the most-needed eastbound lane.***
 - "there is a north-side multi-use path" -- ***that path is wonderful for westbound bicyclists and those headed to/from campus, but it does not serve people who live, work, or shop on the southern side.***
 - "curb lanes need to be prepared for BRT" -- ***this suggests BRT is incompatible with bike lanes. Will we sacrifice bike lanes on other BRT routes?***
 - "bicyclists should use the new wider south-side sidewalk" -- ***that sidewalk has many blind driveways and abuts many buildings, making it illegal and unsafe to ride. Additionally, although the new sidewalk will be nicer and free of utility poles, it will be no wider than the current one.***
- An eastbound bike lane is essential because:
 - This four-block section will remain the only gap in a bike lane stretching from the Beltline to the Capitol.
 - The 2010 U Ave construction that added miles of bike lanes to the west always intended to connect them eastward.
 - An eastbound bicyclist must choose between (a) navigating the maze-like Rocky Bluff neighborhood, a route that is 60% longer and involves 2-3x more climbing, (b) crossing University Ave twice, or (c) bicycling up a hill in traffic on University Avenue.
- **My ask: add a single eastbound bike lane or shoulder lane to this project.**

For a fuller treatment of these points, please see the short presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/university-bike-lanes>

Thank you,

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