



MADISON WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.madwest.org

Statement on Jeffy Trail Budget Item

Date: September 13, 2017

Attribute the following statement to Joseph Ryan, President Madison West Neighborhood Association:

“The Madison West Neighborhood Association was disappointed to learn last night that the proposed 2018 Executive Capital Budget introduced by Mayor Soglin includes \$610,000 in City funding to construct a street extension of Jeffy Trail after the Common Council just acted in August to remove that proposed street from the City’s comprehensive development plans.

The Jeffy Trail local street extension would largely replace a highly used bike path and would fully traverse City-owned conservancy zoned land purchased from the Audubon Society. According to the City’s own information, the proposed street would only serve 11% of the neighborhood traffic trips, serve fewer than 1000 vehicle trips per day, and is not intended to be used for through traffic.

The existing bike path and the wooded conservancy area are the focal point of the neighborhood, and the neighborhood concluded that their preservation outweighed the marginal benefit in automobile connectivity and the \$610,000 cost to the City of building the Jeffy Trail local street extension.

After an extensive eight month review process of the neighborhood development plan initiated by the City to ensure development plans were consistent with the City’s evolving needs, our Alder Barbara McKinney, three City of Madison committees and the Common Council agreed with the neighborhood that the Jeffy Trail street extension is not consistent with Madison’s stated planning principles and is not in the best interests of Madison.

The proposed Executive Capital Budget expenditure on Jeffy Trail is inconsistent with the established neighborhood development plan process and the City’s promotion of People Powered Planning, a bicycle and pedestrian friendly Madison, and prioritizing fiscal resources to best meet Madison’s needs. We share Alder McKinney’s disappointment in the Jeffy Trail budget proposal, are working with her to uphold the integrity of the City’s neighborhood development plan process by removing this \$610,000 expenditure.”

The Madison West Neighborhood Association was created in 2016, and its boundaries encompass all of the District 1 Aldermanic district.