

MADISON WEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.



September 22, 2017

To: Members of Finance Committee
CC: Members of the Madison Common Council
From: Joseph Ryan, President, Madison West Neighborhood Association
Re: Capital Budget: Support Alder McKinney led Amendment to Remove the \$610,000 Jeffy Trail Extension Expenditure from the Executive Capital Budget – Amendment #4

The Madison West Neighborhood Association was disappointed that the proposed 2018 Executive Capital Budget included \$610,000 in City funding to construct a street extension of Jeffy Trail after the Common Council just acted in August to not include that proposed local street in the updated High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Development Plan.

We ask you to vote in support of the proposed Finance Committee amendment #4 sponsored by Alder McKinney and co-sponsored by Alder Skidmore to remove the \$610,000 Jeffy Trail extension expenditure from the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan.

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, multiple stated goals in Madison's Comprehensive Plan, and prioritizing fiscal resources to best meet Madison's needs.

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 neighborhood's 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 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 local 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. The just adopted High Point-Raymond Neighborhood Development Plan recognizes that their preservation outweighs the marginal benefit in automobile connectivity and the \$610,000 cost to the City of building the Jeffy Trail local street extension.

We ask you to uphold the credibility of the Neighborhood Development Plan process and to ensure Madison is prioritizing its capital spending to meet Madison's critical needs by voting in support of Alder McKinney and Alder Skidmore's amendment to remove the \$610,000 Jeffy Trail extension expenditure from the Capital Budget.

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