

MONONA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
REVIEW OF 2022–2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
AND 2022 CAPITAL BORROWING
November 1, 2021

The meeting of the Monona City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Kristie Goforth, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, and Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Josh Straka from Strand Associates (via Zoom), and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2022–2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND 2022 CAPITAL BORROWING

Mr. Straka projected and referenced a map of the area of Winnequah Road under consideration for reconstruction. The new plan, Option 4, includes a multi-use path on the west side, the east curb line would be kept where it is. There would be two 11' drive lanes, a second curb and gutter, the terrace, and then an 8' to 10' multi-use path. This was discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting. The path may have to be narrowed to go around trees. No matter which option is chosen the two walls have to be considered. The east side holds back a bank. The west side has the long-time historic walls. There is a cost to moving either; there is no space next to the path. Leaf and trash placement is an issue. This is the pinch-point on the road.

Alder Moore questioned why the path couldn't be moved to the east side by re-aligning the road and narrowing lanes and the path. Pedestrian users wouldn't have to cross the street. There is a cross street in Phase 2 of the project and 18 driveways to cross versus 38. Mr. Straka responded that is a good thought, this could be swapped; he was trying to save the east side curb lines; reconstruction of driveways on both sides of the street would increase costs and both curbs would have to be moved. Alder Moore responded if it is a viable option she is not opposed to the higher cost to get it right.

Bicycle traffic was discussed. It requires a good connection to get across, especially from the Lake Loop. Members agree community needs are more important than the Lake Loop. Mr. Straka reported minimum lanes widths are 12' with curbs on both sides and 10' when adjacent to a bike lane; he doesn't recommend going less. Path standards are 10', narrowing to 8' around hazards; standards have widened to 12' with 14' desirable. Sidewalk ADA minimum is 5' with 4' around hazards and 6' recommend when up against a curb. Tree removal was discussed. Mr. Straka reported 5 to 7 will be removed with bump-out removal. He estimates 11 to 14 total at the highest, Option 3 is 11, Options 1 and 2 is 6 to 7, Option 4 is 14. The plan isn't finalized; it may meander around some. The count is for larger trees; smaller trees and under-growth will also be lost. Mayor O'Connor stated some are ash trees that have to be removed anyway.

Alder Kuhr thanks members of the public who are in attendance tonight. One-day notice isn't enough; she was almost unable to attend. She could make a decision on funding but is not comfortable choosing a plan. Alder Wood stated Option 3 serves the community best. His biggest concern with Option 4 is the number of driveways. That would be dangerous biking; bikers would use the road but it doesn't allow escape room. There's also no room for delivery vehicles. He reached out to the Madison MPO and Option 3 would be preferred over Option 4. Mr. Straka agrees; pedestrians and bicyclists would be would

be separated. He doesn't think bikes would use the path in Option 4; the City would have to commit to a longer section to get them to use it. Moving walls in Option 3 would be best but he understands why to not do that.

Alder Thomas stated she has diligently kept her personal feelings out of her consideration on this project, she wants to get it right. She doesn't think enough review has been done and wants the Public Works Committee to do more; the Council isn't ready to discuss plans. The walls are the constraint; she'd like to see the cost of removing them versus the cost of working around them. Members discussed approving funds but having more design work and Public Works Committee review. Alder Goforth stated Option 4 showed more bicycle conflicts; there hasn't been enough time to get the design right; it could connect further up, possibly to Healy Lane. Public Works Director Stephany told her the road could last two more years as is; time can be taken. More meeting notice is needed as well. Alder Moore noted this road has been studied since it was first redesigned. Decisions won't be rushed. Smaller Options 1 and 2 aren't viable choices. She is not ready for a final design. Alder Thomas stated the public is concerned that if the Council doesn't act the project won't move forward. This is a high-cost project focusing on pedestrian safety. Members agree more time and design is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to close the Committee of the Whole, was carried. (6:51 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk