



Office of the Common Council
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December 4, 2017

Occupant

~~REDACTED ADDRESS~~

Madison WI 53703

Dear Resident of District 2

You may have recently received a letter signed by "concerned citizens" related to the half-closure test the City is currently conducting at the intersection of Blair Street and Mifflin Street.

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to some misstatements made in this letter and reiterate what is being done and the process that will be followed as the city and the neighborhood consider whether to recommend to the Common Council to make the half-closure permanent.

Project:

In the interest of reducing motorized traffic on Mifflin Street, City Traffic Engineering, working with the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Association has implemented a half-closure of Mifflin Street at Blair Street. This change prevents motorized traffic from entering Mifflin Street eastbound at its intersection with Blair Street. It is a test and upon conclusion, the City Staff will consider all input and data and make a recommendation to the City's Pedestrian, Bicycle, Motor Vehicle Commission and the Board of Public Works as to whether the closure should be made permanent or removed. After the review and recommendation of these two bodies, the Common Council will then review the recommendation and make a final determination as to whether to proceed. This action is expected to be undertaken sometime in the spring of 2018.

Contrary to information provided in the concerned citizen letter City Traffic does not have plans to make Mifflin Street usable exclusively by bicyclists. Mifflin Street is an important street and necessary for circulation and access within the neighborhood and the street will remain available for all users—pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Process:

City Staff have met on several occasions with the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Safety Committee to discuss the project and implementation. The project was not initiated without notice as the City provided an informational postcard mailing to all properties within the area bound by Blair Street, E Washington Avenue, Baldwin Street and Johnson Street. A project website was created when the test closure was started with additional project information, which can be found at this link: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/blairMifflin/>

Traffic Studies:

Contrary to information provided in the concerned citizen letter, the City has completed before and after traffic studies. Traffic data was collected before the test was implemented and follow up, after closure data was collected in October. This data will be compiled and made available for the Neighborhood Association, interested residents and City Boards and Commissions to consider while deliberating on whether the half-closure is to remain or be removed. Some of the before data was included in the city's presentation at a Tenney Lapham Neighborhood meeting in April.

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Conclusion:

The Council places great importance on factual data and information so that we can make the best informed decisions possible. The information collected by Traffic Engineering Staff and the comments from the public, both pro and con, will be considered as part of these deliberations. It is important that you as a resident express your opinion on this project and **I encourage you to provide comments via mail to City Traffic Engineering (30 W. Mifflin St. Ste. 900 Madison, WI 53703) or via the City website:**

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/blairMifflin/>

Thank you for caring about your neighborhood and the safety of all users of our residential streets.

Sincerely,



Ledell Zellers

Alder, Second District

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