

Craig, Sondra

From: James Longhurst <jlonghur@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: Support letter for item 24-0957

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Hello, I would like this letter of support attached to item 24-0957.

I write in support of the resolution adopting the 2024 revision of the City of La Crosse Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.

As a resident of La Crosse; a driver, pedestrian and cyclist; and a close follower of the creation and implementation of the 2012 master plan: I believe that this 2024 revision is a good plan for the future of La Crosse, and encourage members of council to approve the resolution in support. Plans are difficult things; they have to start with the current conditions of the city and offer an inspiring vision of the future, while still working within the limits for possible implementation. This plan accomplishes a difficult balancing act.

Emphasizing a basic network that encourages walking and riding for all ages and abilities, this document builds on our city's existing Safe Routes to Schools plan and brings professional best practices to recommend protected intersections, facilities and neighborhood greenways throughout the city. I particularly like that smaller, "spot improvement" projects (like signal adjustments #8 or pedestrian crossing #53) are mixed in with difficult but aspirational goals that would take significant planning and coordination over years, but would significantly improve the opportunities for people to get around safely (like rail-with-trail projects #70-72). This plan presents a menu of projects from which to choose, and highlights the fantastic opportunities that La Crosse enjoys: a compact, flat city with great neighborhoods and vital business districts, the city is easily connected by walking and biking, if we want.

I particularly appreciate one of the major changes from the 2012 plan in this 2024 revision. At the request of the City Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the consultant included an explicit prioritization of the many recommended projects. This is an excellent improvement over the 2012 plan, which had a huge number of projects spread out all over the city. The 2024 revision includes a short list of prioritized projects, in two tiers, determined through a quantitative scoring process. That process emphasized connections: between north and south La Crosse, over existing barriers, connecting homes to parks, schools and destinations. The Tier 1 priority list (page 50) includes projects from the 2012 plan that are still unfinished 12 years later, like project 1A: the Avon Street Greenway. This gives us a clear roadmap for implementation.

I recommend the council support this resolution approving and adopting this plan, and look forward to working with city staff over the coming decades to bring many of its projects to fruition.

Sincerely,

James Longhurst

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La Crosse