

Members of the City of La Crosse Finance and Personnel Committee

I am writing to ask that you not approve item 24-0348—the request to not install sidewalks on 27th, 28th and 29th Streets between Robinsdale Avenue and Diagonal Road.

This request is not in line with the Green Complete Streets ordinance and two City plans--the recently adopted Climate Action Plan and the 2020 Safe Routes to School Plan. All previously approved by the City Council.

The Complete Streets ordinance “seeks to ensure that the streets of La Crosse provide safe, convenient and comfortable routes for walking.” The ordinance additionally notes that the city would focus their efforts most immediately on areas where there were missing links in sidewalks. This resolution does not ensure safe routes for walking nor connect missing links in our city’s sidewalk infrastructure.

The city’s 2022 Climate Action Plan notes in its Transportation and Mobility section (TM 5 strategy) that the city will improve the comfort and safety of walking and biking in the City of La Crosse. Making pedestrians walk in the street along side fast moving cars does not ensure walkers are safe or comfortable.

I chaired the 2020 Safe Routes to School Planning Committee. As part of the committee’s data collection parents were surveyed. Hintgen parents expressed a desire for more sidewalks as missing sidewalks presented a barrier to their children walking and biking safely to school. The plan included the construction of new sidewalks to form a continuous sidewalk on 28th and 29th Streets. Approving this resolution would go against parent’s expressed wishes and a Safe Routes to School Plan strategy approved by the Council.

Please follow City ordinances and two City Plans previously approved by the Council and reject this request to not install sidewalks on 27th, 28th and 29th Streets between Robinsdale Avenue and Diagonal Road.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Lee
412 20th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601