

## SASY Committee Report Form

Date of meeting: September 24, 2013

Name of Committee: Transportation

Chair : Donna Magdalena

Members: Melanie Foxcroft, Lance Green, Larry Jensen, Anne Walker, Tim Wong

Purpose (goal) of Committee:

The mission of the SASY Transportation Committee is to promote a safe, sustainable, walkable & bikeable, multimodal neighborhood. The committee will work with residents of the SASY neighborhood, SASY businesses, city staff & elected representatives to identify, educate, develop policy and evaluate implementation & results regarding:

- Short & long-range transportation infrastructure needs
- Proposed and planned projects, impacts & issues
- Transportation-related values, priorities and needs of residents & businesses

The committee will serve as the initial consultation for transportation-related design, development, construction & repair in the neighborhood: infrastructure, pedestrian, bicycle, mass-transit, motor vehicle & snow removal. The committee will make recommendations to the SASY Council.

Specific issue(s) to report:

The Transportation Committee held a special and innovative presentation of the Hwy 51/Stoughton Road Corridor on Oct. 3 to investigate current reconstruction plans and alternatives. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) presented three options containing 3D models of their plans, proposing to spend \$200-\$810 million to change some or all sections of the Highway 51/Stoughton Road corridor into a freeway, despite the I-39/90 freeway serving the same area less than 1.5 miles to the east, and despite our changing society where people are driving less, both locally and nationally. For perspective, \$810 million is the amount Wisconsin refused from the federal government in 2011 to build the entire high-speed rail network in the state.

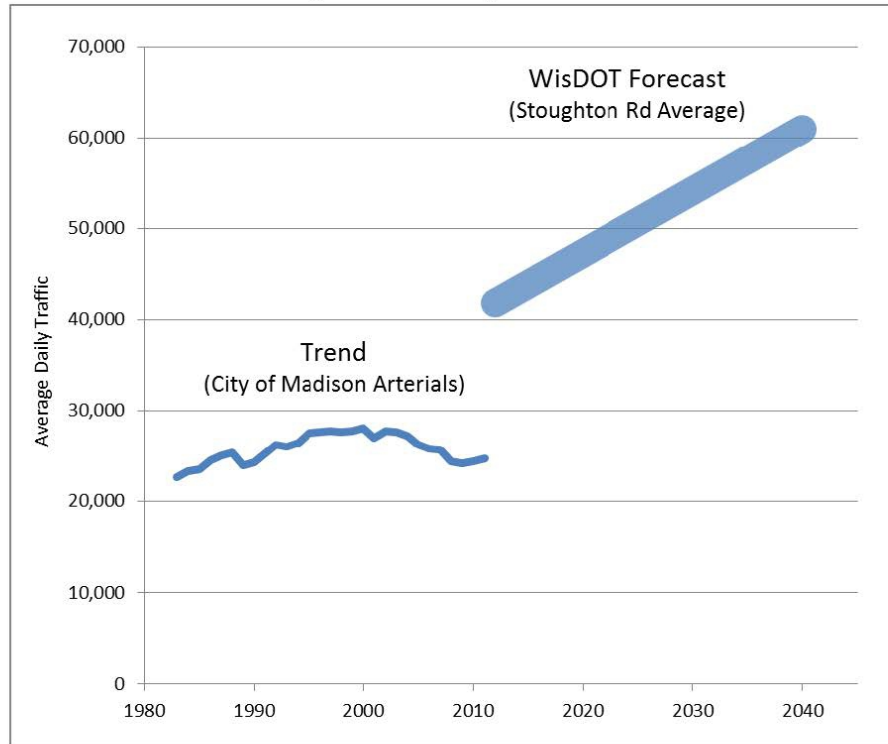
Mary Ebeling, a neighborhood resident who works nationally with comparable U.S. communities and state DOTs in converting freeways and highways into boulevards, followed WisDOT with a compelling presentation and innovative solution for Stoughton Road which captivated the evening's audience.

Ebeling presented data on reduced driving patterns and how our internet-infused society, among other factors, has significantly altered our mobility needs compared to past decades. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) have leveled off for the last five years nation-wide and within the Madison area. Data shows these trends are not connected with the recession and are not expected to return to old patterns of continued growth.

While East Washington Avenue funnels 60,000 cars through its corridor each day, Stoughton Road hosts only 40,000. Are attempts to expand highways and build freeways a fiscally responsible decision when both driving patterns and tax bases are in decline? Watch Rochester, NY's Inner Loop transition from

decay to greenery at [www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=HI34YZ7Yqw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=HI34YZ7Yqw) and picture a new option to consider for Stoughton Road.

## Annual VMT per capita in Madison, WI



VMT=Vehicle Miles Traveled. Source: City of Madison and WisDOT

### Recommendation(s):

The Transportation Committee recognizes that drawings and ideas of the Schenks Corners plaza currently circulating and being discussed are for idea-generation purposes only at this point in time; however since numerous professionally-prepared schematic drawings created by Tim Anderson of the proposed plaza have been shown at Corridor Planning meetings with two-way auto access to the 1900 block of Atwood Avenue, The Transportation Committee has approved a formal recommendation to the SASY council:

The Transportation Committee recommends to the SASY Council that the intersection at the 1900 block of Winnebago Street does not have two way motor vehicle access from Schenks Corners, so as to preserve the greenspace, consistent with placemaking for that area; with two way access from First Street to the 1900 block for access by local businesses and residents.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22 in the first floor conference room of the United Way building on Atwood Avenue, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Use the lobby phone and dial 4391 to buzz the room and someone will let you in.