**Sunset Village Community Association**

**May xx, 2024**

**DRAFT Resolution 2024-1**

“Resolution to Request Construction of Sidewalks on Harvey Street and North Blackhawk Avenue”

Whereas, the off-street pedestrian network in north Sunset Village is incomplete, with notable sidewalk gaps, presenting particular safety risks and access impediments for those who are vulnerable or have limited mobility, especially children; and

Whereas, the City of Madison continues to fail to fully implement the principles and guidelines of city and neighborhood plans concerning infill sidewalk construction when undertaking street improvement projects (references listed below); and

Whereas, 19 Sunset Village residents requested construction of continuous sidewalks on both sides of Harvey Street in a letter to Mayor Rhodes-Conway on November 1, 2019; and

Whereas, City Engineering did not include construction of sidewalks on the east side of Blackhawk Avenue when it was reconstructed in 2020; and

Whereas, the Sunset Village Community Association resolved to support construction of continuous sidewalk on Harvey Street on February 16, 2023; and

Whereas, although Harvey Street has a summer tree canopy that approaches 100%, City Engineering removed the proposed segment of sidewalk on the south side of Harvey Street between 3325 Harvey Street and Blackhawk Avenue from the Schmitt Place/Harvey Street reconstruction project as a result of city staff’s misunderstanding of the neighborhood and an erroneous interpretation of the Urban Forestry Task Force Report; and

Whereas, since 1955, the south side of Harvey Street has had a sidewalk island in front of four apartment buildings that connects to no other streets; and

Whereas, there are two school bus stops located south of Harvey Street, at Eugenia Street and Owen Drive and Blackhawk Avenue and Owen Drive, and accessing them from the Harvey Street apartment buildings necessitates walking in the street for more than 150 feet; and

Whereas, completing the sidewalk between 3325 Harvey Street and Blackhawk Avenue on the south side of Harvey Street would necessitate removal of only one mature tree; and

Whereas, completing the sidewalks on the south side of Harvey Street and the east side of Blackhawk Avenue between University Avenue and Harvey Street would also improve pedestrian safety and access to University Avenue and bus transit and would not require acquisition of any right of way; and

Whereas, 57 neighborhood residents signed a petition calling for the construction of sidewalks on the south side Harvey Street and east side Blackhawk Avenue and submitted the petition to City Council in November 2023; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Sunset Village Community Association calls on the City of Madison to complete construction of sidewalks on the south side of Harvey Street between Blackhawk Avenue and 3325 Harvey Street and the east side of Blackhawk Avenue from University Avenue to Harvey Street no later than December 31, 2025.

References

City Engineering, Planning and Traffic Engineering have not completed the Pedestrian System Plan as required by the 2017 *Madison in Motion Transportation Plan* (MIM).

Page 77 of MIM recommends that streets classified as collectors, such as Blackhawk Avenue, should be given the highest priority for the addition of sidewalks.

Paragraph xiv on page 78 of MIM states, “Prioritize Tier 1 Streets for sidewalk additions without street reconstruction”.

Map 12 on page 80 of MIM shows Blackhawk Avenue as a Tier 1 Sidewalk Priority.

Page 62 of the *Hoyt Park Area Joint Neighborhood Plan* calls for “improvements for safer movement of pedestrians” on Harvey Street.

Page 25 of the *Urban Forestry Task Force Report* includes a recommendation for Madison to achieve 40% overall tree canopy coverage.