

Hi Mark,

Thank you for your comments and I'm sorry about the flooding you endured in 2018. It sounds like an awful experience.

As you know, in the area near your home we are looking at installing the new sewer pipe in the RR corridor. We just completed a design meeting this afternoon with our consultant Strand Engineering, Inc. We are leaning towards installing on the north side of the tracks but have not yet made a final decision.

If there are small tweaks that can be made to the MMSD project to improve Village and regional storm water issues or to address other public concerns, we would be happy to include those tweaks in our design. Storm water improvements will need to be recommended and approved by the Village engineer and coordinated with any regional storm water control efforts by the Village, the City of Madison, Dane County, and State agencies. Any changes to storm water drainage in the RR corridor will need to be approved by the WI-DOT who owns the property and Wisconsin Southern RR who operates on the tracks.

We will continue to coordinate with Village officials and engineers, copied in your email and in this reply, regarding the design in general and any potential minor design changes or additions that can be made to improve storm water drainage and other public infrastructure.

Thank you again for attending the public information/input meeting and for providing input. Please contact me with any other ideas, questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Eric Hjellen, PE
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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Mandel [mailto:mandel01@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 3:41 PM

To: Eric Hjellen

Cc: Karl Franz; Dave Benforado; Brian Berquist

Subject: West Interceptor Shorewood Relief project feedback - Locust Dr section

Dear Eric,

Thank you for the presentation last week on possible routes for the new sewer lines. I wanted to provide my opinion that a proposed project North of the railroad tracks in Shorewood Hills would substantially inconvenience families that have been recently affected by catastrophic flooding. However, I would encourage you to investigate the opportunity for this project to provide some flood protection in the future. I suspect that small changes to the plan could turn this concern

into a community benefit. Details are described below.

My home had substantial flooding in August 2018. My understanding is that this occurred when water from University Avenue washed away the railroad ballast, sending water into the neighborhood. My house backs up to the railroad tracks (second house West of Shorewood Boulevard). This resulted in water accumulating in the yard, breaking through the basement windows and filling much of the basement. We have spent an incredible amount of time and money in the past year working to rebuild.

Therefore, my initial reaction to the sewer project was negative. If the new line were to be installed North of the railroad tracks between Shorewood Blvd and Western Rd, then immediately behind my house there will be a 20-ft trench for an entire upcoming summer. While I understand that the work would not be directly on my property, this would certainly impact my family's life as we are returning to some sense of normal.

As I discussed the project with you and other officials, one idea arose that as you are moving all of this earth to build the trench, perhaps there would be an opportunity to build up the North side of the railroad tracks to create a barrier to future flooding. I am envisioning a berm that extends 3 feet above the level of the railroad tracks, but I have cc'd Village officials who are better able to provide input on specifics. I acknowledge that you mentioned at the meeting that this was not a stormwater project. However, I would encourage you to discuss this with the Village of Shorewood Hills to see if a small tweak to the project could provide substantial assistance to the neighboring homeowners. Although we would still have the disruption of this project, I would look forward to the work if it means that we would be better protected in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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