



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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March 4, 2003

Ald. Suzanne Breier
Chairwoman, Public Improvements Committee
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3567

Chairwoman Breier and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the three bicycle/pedestrian projects pending before your committee: the update of the City bike map; the off-street bike path study; and the update to the City bike plan.

I believe these projects will directly benefit the health of city residents and its children, in particular. Obesity is an epidemic among young people, endangering their health and presenting an unnecessary, preventable and expensive set of problems to health care providers and the community at large.

We need to do whatever we can to fight this epidemic by encouraging our children to engage in healthy activities and exercise. We are already working with the City DPW to distribute new bike racks to MPS schools. It is one way the city and MPS are collaborating to improve the quality of life in our community.

The proposed projects could provide MPS students with improved safe routes to schools and even maps of these routes. Completion of these projects could allow Milwaukee to apply for federal Safe Routes to School funding that Congress is now considering.

Finally, these projects could benefit our Neighborhood Schools Initiative directly by getting kids off buses and easing congestion around schools at "drop off" times.

Let's work together to create safe routes to desirable schools in every neighborhood, to improve the health of our children, and to reduce our reliance on busing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William G. Andrekopulos'.

William G. Andrekopulos
Superintendent

WGA*skt