

Lee, Chris

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:10 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Corrected message re 30th St Corridor: trees and open space documented to support healthy cognition

Add to file.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "joyce . boyland (at) alverno . edu" <joyce.boyland@alverno.edu>
Date: March 17, 2025 at 2:23:37 PM CDT
To: "Perez, Jose" <JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov>, "Jackson, DiAndre" <DiAndre.Jackson@milwaukee.gov>, "Stamper II, Russell" <Russell.StamperII@milwaukee.gov>, "Zamarripa, JoCasta" <JoCasta@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: "Bauman, Robert" <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>, "Legislative Assistant, 3rd District" <AIDE3@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Corrected message re 30th St Corridor: trees and open space documented to support healthy cognition
Reply-To: joyce.boyland@alverno.edu

Dear Alderman Bauman, Benjamin Jackson (3rd District), Alderpersons Stamper, Jackson, Perez, and Zamarripa,

Last week, I was traveling near the 30th St corridor, and remarked on its exceptional unrealized potential. Then, somewhat coincidentally this morning, I came across a 2023 research project by Warner Schaie, one of the foremost scholars of cognition over the lifespan, using well-validated methods in a large-scale longitudinal study. Here are some quotes from the article:

""Lifespan developmental perspectives widely acknowledge that cognitive development and aging is shaped by an individual's social, historical, and geographic context. The residential neighborhood is the most immediate geographic context of an individual."

"Our findings showed that cleanness of air and **availability of trees and open spaces were indeed associated with higher levels of most primary mental abilities at age 60**. In addition, cleanness of air was associated with less pronounced cognitive aging for two of the five primary mental abilities and **availability of trees and open spaces was associated with less pronounced cognitive aging for four of the five primary mental abilities.**"

"[T]he findings of this study demonstrate that characteristics of an individual's neighborhood are related to trajectories of performance-based measures of cognitive aging **over and above indicators of socio-economic status.**"

That is, even taking into account socio-economic status, trees and open spaces were linked with not only with better cognition at the time of testing, but also with less decline over time.

I strongly support rail (both passenger and freight) and thus would lament the potential loss of underused rail infrastructure, but City acquisition of this property would actually open the door to better use of this right-of-way for passenger rail as well as trail and linear park use, directly improving the lives of Milwaukee residents. The immediate and long-term benefits of investing in this parcel are substantial, not just for personal transportation and community economic development reasons, but also because every dollar that improves or maintains the cognitive health of our population will repay itself many times over.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joyce Boyland
Milwaukee, WI