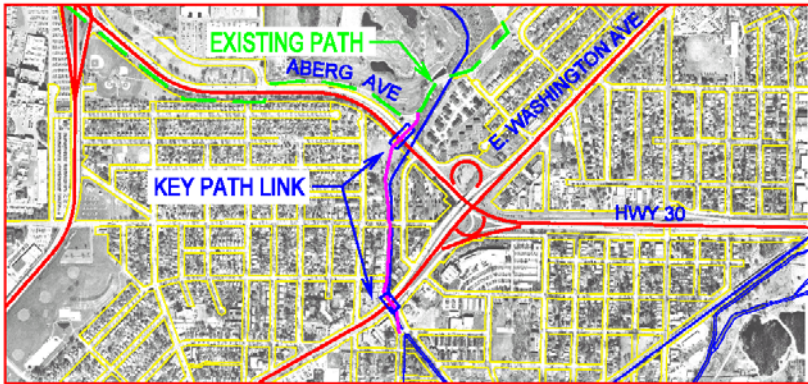


# Starkweather Path at East Washington Ave

## Near East Side Neighborhoods Divided – Starkweather Creek Path to make Employment and Education Accessible For Pedestrians and Bicyclists.

Major streets like East Washington Avenue, Aberg Avenue and STH 30 have divided the modest older neighborhoods of Madison's near east side. While these transportation arteries are vital to the community, they have also become significant barriers between neighborhoods, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Employment centers such as the Airport Business Park are difficult to get to by walking or biking from



neighborhoods south of Aberg Avenue. The same is true for Madison Area Technical College, a major community resource for which bike access is important. Numerous smaller retail and employment centers are cut off from potential customers and employees not traveling by automobile. Important recreational resources like Olbrich Park and neighborhood parks can be difficult to access for those living on the wrong side of these pedestrian barriers.

The solution is construction of a bike and pedestrian path from Darbo Drive, south of East Washington Avenue to the existing Starkweather path just north of Aberg Avenue. This segment of path will follow Starkweather Creek, visually enhancing the neighborhood it traverses. At E. Washington Avenue the project will restore creek banks and



remove some derelict buildings that today contribute to neighborhood blight (photo right). With the construction of some additional pathway along the Starkweather Creek from Darbo Drive to the existing Capital City Trail, the City's extensive network of pedestrian and bike trails will be accessible. The near-East neighborhoods and the community as a whole will benefit from a beautiful and strategically located creek side path, similar to other paths in the City. (photo left).



The key components of this link are two pedestrian bridges, one over East Washington Avenue at Marquette Street and the second over Aberg Avenue at McCormick Avenue. (architectural rendering below) This significant infrastructure investment will enhance bike and pedestrian mobility, stimulate completion of the Starkweather Path, implement planned stream improvements for the watershed and contribute to the vitality and livability of some of the City's older, more modest neighborhoods.

