



ACTIVE  
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July 8, 2019

Dear Lake County Board Members,

The Active Transportation Alliance, a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit, highly encourages all Lake County Board Members to vote against the proposed extension of Route 53. In addition to being incredibly costly, the project will lead to increased car trips and congestion in the long-term.

As you place your upcoming vote, please remember that building more roads encourages more driving – a well-researched phenomena known as induced demand.

People change their transportation choices based upon the ease of available options. As word spreads about a new road, drivers who took alternative routes during peak time will return. People who took public transportation will now return to the roadways. People who planned travel during off-peak times or avoided car travel altogether will now return as drivers. Ultimately, this cycle overwhelms any new capacity generated by expanding a road and results in more traffic congestion.

Lake County would be far better off investing in walking, biking, trails, and transit which are critical for creating healthier, more equitable communities, cleaner environments, and vibrant local economies.

After decades of debate over this project, we call upon the Lake County Board to once and for all deprioritize the extension of Route 53. We encourage you to take a long-term view and refocus attention on building a multimodal network of walkable communities, low-stress trails and bike lanes, and easy-to-use public transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Geraci".

Melody Geraci  
Interim Executive Director