

**From:** plnametz <plnametz@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Don't cut the police budget!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, Madison Alders,

I have read with great concern of Mayor Rhodes-Conway's plans to cut the city police budget. Please don't vote for this! Madison is growing, bringing increasing needs for traffic enforcement, burglary investigation, community engagement, and other functions only our police officers are trained to do.

We have a great department! Please don't cut their budget as the city's needs for intelligent and caring policing only continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Nametz  
Madison resident since 1973

**From:** Susan Ashley <susan@ashleyhall.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** MPD

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Good morning,

I want to communicate my thoughts on the continuing rise in crime in Madison and the continuing and proposed reduction in our MPD budget. In a recent meeting in our area, it was disclosed by current officers that MPD ranks consist of either the very young, new recruit officers and those old enough to only be willing to continue their MPD career because they are relatively close to retirement and wish to retain their retirement benefits. The entire middle age range of officers have already left MPD for pastures greener than Madison offers; pastures where they are supported in every way by the community they work in and for. Now I've learned that there are further proposed cuts in MPD's budget for next year.

In recent years, crime in Madison has gotten completely out of control and MPD already doesn't have enough officers (due to prior budget constraints) to adequately handle all the crime, speeding, shootings, auto theft, homeless settlement unrest, home break-ins, etc. so I fail to understand how our police will serve and protect us if there are more budget cuts. In 32 of the past 39 years, I have lived in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Houston and I have NEVER felt as unsafe in those communities as I feel living in Madison. We never know when our homes will be broken into, when we might become victims of a traffic incident caused either by a youth in a stolen, speeding vehicle or of crossfire from another vehicle, when our catalytic convert will be cut off our car overnight, etc. And are we waiting for Reindahl Park to erupt into a full-fledged riot before the issues there are addressed? Our police need to be adequately funded and staffed for them to be able to protect our community. Madison has always had the reputation of being a desirable place to live but the way things are going now, that reputation won't last for very long. I have 4 neighbors and friends that used to live within a block of our home, but they have sold their homes and moved out of Madison. I'm quite sure there are many more.

Will it take an assault on your own person or home to see the danger in these MPD cuts?

I beg you, PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT FURTHER MPD BUDGET CUTS!

*Susan Ashley*

6001 Ragan Street  
Madison, WI 53718-8500

**From:** Colleen Cotter <cottercmt@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, August 27, 2021 2:39 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:**

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I, as a citizen of Madison want and NEED a FULLY STAFFED and ADEQUATELY FUNDED Police Department. Our safety is in imminent peril without it.

From: GRIFFIN DORSCHER <gifdor@aol.com>  
Sent: Sunday, September 5, 2021 5:28 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police department

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

While racism is a deep and long term problem to be addressed, we are not in favor of downsizing the police department. Community policing is an important part of the fabric not only of Madison, but of the whole Dane County community.

**From:** Nancy Battist <battistnancy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Disgusted

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am a resident on the East side with Alder Jael Currie. I have lived in Madison my entire life. I have never been so disgusted as I am now. My Far East side neighborhood has been plagued with criminal activity over the past two years and now extreme violence with guns. I have always felt safe until the past few years. I live only a few blocks from the east Police district and the past months the sound of sirens is constant. I have a son living in SW Minneapolis near W. Lake St. and when visiting him there are fewer sirens heard.

STOP the politics and FUND our POLICE. Yes Social Workers and Counselors are important to ride with Police, but are they going to calls to de-escalate with @shots fired calls?" Innocent people are being hurt, homes shot at and there will be more innocent people killed. Put money back into Community Policing.

Concerned Madisonian,  
Nancy Battist  
1114 Amsterdam Ave.  
Madison - 53716

**From:** mtevanon@gmail.com <mtevanon@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:16 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Patton, Timothy <TPatton@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>; Arik Grundahl <grundahlak19@gmail.com>; Heidi Wiley <heidijeanwiley@gmail.com>; Jacob Kriegisch <jacob.kriegisch@gmail.com>; Janice Bauman <jdbauman4@gmail.com>; Kristen McCool <kristen.mccool@gmail.com>; Lisa Kass <lkpenguins@gmail.com>; Lisa Schulz <buttonldy@aol.com>; Lisa Veldran <lveldran@yahoo.com>; Maggie Dugan <maggiedugan24@gmail.com>; Mark Bauman <msbauman57@gmail.com>; Marty & Terry Evanson <mtevanon@gmail.com>; Maureen Murphy <murphy.k.maureen@gmail.com>; Miguel Benson <miguel.a.benson@gmail.com>; Mike Edmonds <m.edmonds@sbcglobal.net>; Sammy Clevenger <samanthakay36@yahoo.com>; Sheray Wallace (CSW focused interruption) <swallace@focusedinterruption.org>; Tony Smick <skyumahwi@aol.com>

**Subject:** 2022 City Operating Budget for the Madison Police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway – The Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board respectfully opposes your plan to cut the Madison police department budget. The attached letter outlines the safety situations in our neighborhood and the need for a fully staffed police force. As you construct the 2022 operating budget we strongly urge you to fully fund the police department.

Sincerely,

Theresa Evanson, President

Meadowood Neighborhood Association

<https://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org/>

608-695-6846



## Meadowood Neighborhood Association, Inc.

P.O. BOX 45528  
Madison, WI 53744-5528  
[www.meadowoodneighborhood.org](http://www.meadowoodneighborhood.org)

Theresa Evanson, President  
[MNABoard1@gmail.com](mailto:MNABoard1@gmail.com)

September 7, 2021

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway  
City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, #403  
Madison, WI 53703

RE: 2022 Operating Budget for the Madison Police

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

The Meadowood Neighborhood Association (MNA) opposes your plan to cut the Madison police department budget.

In this last year, our neighborhood has experienced multiple shots fired incidents, with at least one injury, multiple burglaries and other property crimes. Homes have been hit with bullets while people slept in their beds.

The city already has too few officers to address multiple, on-going incidents. The five percent cut you have proposed may result in the loss of more than 35 officers from our understaffed police force. Police are already stretched thin – more cuts will make their jobs more dangerous and reduce response times. Residents in our neighborhood feel unsafe and unheard. Reducing our overstretched police force only exacerbates anger and distrust toward you and other elected officials.

The MNA Board is constantly communicating with our residents through social media, email, newsletters, yard signs, and personal conversations about the responsibility of residents for neighborhood safety. We promote communication between residents and the police. We include our neighborhood officers in our neighborhood activities so residents can get to know them personally. We encourage residents to report suspicious activity and to be cognizant of personal actions they can take to prevent crime.

But there is only so much we can do as residents. We depend on the police to show up when people in stolen cars race down our streets shooting guns. Perpetrators of these incredibly dangerous acts need to be apprehended. Neighborhood safety is at the very top of MNA's priorities. It should also be a top priority for the city.

The MNA board supports the Community Alternative Response Emergency Services (CARES) program, Focused Interruption, and a public health approach to reducing violence in our city. These and other social service efforts can help address root causes of crime. However, they take time to implement and it will be some time before these efforts have an impact on day-to-day crime in the city. It is critical that effective police services be available to address the crimes that are being committed daily and are putting our neighborhood residents at risk.

We believe that you can find the money to fully fund the police department while also funding longer term responses to reduce crime. We look forward to working with your office and our alder, Christian Albouras, to ensure safety in our city.

Sincerely,

Theresa A. Evanson

Cc: All Madison City Alders

**From:** Marie Schanke <marieschanke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:04 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Police Funding Cut

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I'd like to add my 2 cents to the police department's funding cut.

I was shocked to hear police had to work overtime to cover Madison during the Labor Day weekend. This holiday (as with most holidays) should have had more, not fewer, officers assigned to work.

>> At minimum, the weekend is known for increased alcohol consumption. That act alone often results in:

- an increased number of people driving under the influence
- an increase in underage drinking. Do not forget the University of WI has over 45,000 students. If we assume 20% are 21 or older that leaves 36k. If 10% don't drink over \$32k remain. With classes for 2021 starting Wed. 9/8/21 those 32k students will have moved into the area by Mon. 9/6/21 = Labor Day.
- increased DUI-based road accidents (single vehicle or multiple) & their associated injuries
- increased theft and burglary
- people doing stupid things, aside from driving or stealing, which result in injury (for ex., improper use of fireworks resulting in terrible hand & face burns)
- operating a boat while under the influence \*\*with 4 major lakes in our backyard this is a big issue\*\*
- injuring or killing others using the lakes
- increased domestic violence
- an increase in rape (while under the influence the word "no" quite often isn't as clearly heard as it should be)
- increased gunfire & associated injuries: death of a specific person or innocent bystanders as well as death/injuries resulting from someone "playing" with a gun

>>> Regarding injuries resulting from the above crimes as well as those I didn't list:

- As of Aug. 26/2021 only 6% of WI's ICU beds were available. COVID is kicking our state's ability to treat everything from minor injuries to those meriting an ICU bed.
- Cutting the number of police available, over a known-to-be-hazardous weekend, could be considered a criminal act. It definitely is if someone dies or is permanently injured due to the limited number of police available. If a domestic disturbance call comes in, a delay of mere seconds may result in death or permanent disability. Same with a "person has a gun & is threatening..." call.
- Every "extra" injury severe enough to require the ED or hospitalization puts an increased strain on our almost maxed healthcare facilities. Also, most of their staff have been working backbreaking hours since at least February of 2020.

I hope you understand cutting the police presence within Madison is only going to kick start an increase in illegal activity. Too much of that activity leads to additions to our already severely strained healthcare system. It's a nasty circle which does not have to exist.

I was also informed that at one point there was a single officer on duty for all of Madison. That has to be one of the most disturbing and saddening things I've heard. We aren't Milwaukee, with nearly 600,000

people, but we are also not Appleton with a population close to 75,000. Our 275,000 people absolutely require an involved, well trained, and adequately sized police force.

If the “bad guys” know the severe limits of the police force’s ability to respond to crime of any type, which they already do or will soon understand, it virtually gives them free reign to do what they do best which includes everything I’ve listed above plus much more: vandalization, the stealing of cars and/or car jacking, riffling through cars in driveways, parental (or non-related) kidnapping of a child which would merit immediate investigation, the selling of drugs of all types, etc.

Please help avoid the inevitable consequences I’ve noted. We have seen what has happened in cities which have lowered/defunded their police department budgets. Every city, I believe, which has done so has experienced difficulties such as I’ve outlined (and more). Some have even employed private security firms to supplement their significantly reduced police force.

It makes no sense. Money saved up front through reduction of the department’s budget will result in a larger amount spent down the road. Spending on healthcare, the removal of “tags” off vandalized property, paying facilities to wean an increased number of our fellow citizens off drugs, etc... will haunt us; especially those who made the decision to reduce police funding.

Please properly fund our police department ASAP.

I would greatly appreciate a reply if my facts regarding Labor Day weekend police staffing are incorrect.

I would also like a reply explaining why the necessary funding is not going to the police department when we’ve seen the decline in safety and increase in violence/ crime in other cities.

- A study must have been completed before this decision was made. It would outline the benefits and negatives associated with lowering police department funding. If you can point me to that document, which I would expect to be publicly available, I would greatly appreciate it.

I thank you for your time.

Marie

Marie Schanke, M.H.A.

cell: (608) 239-5731

[marieschanke@gmail.com](mailto:marieschanke@gmail.com)

**From:** getkidsoutside@gmail.com <getkidsoutside@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Keep police funding

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Diane Schwartz

**Address:** 2145 East Washington Ave., East Washington, Madison, WI 53704

**Email:** [getkidsoutside@gmail.com](mailto:getkidsoutside@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I would like to express my support of keeping police funding in tact or even increasing it. Crime is rising, not decreasing and we are still seeing black men being shot down in the streets. I don't think it makes sense to defund the police when we need them more than ever.

**From:** Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 7:58 PM  
**To:** Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>  
**Subject:** Budget Concerns

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So many issues so I will limit this letter to two: **Police Budget and Metro Redesign**

Under funding one agency at the expense of another is poor governance.

As to **Police Funding** I believe there should be more dollars allocated, not less. Have you considered the population growth of Madison as against the number of police on the force. What was the population of Madison, say 5 and 10 years ago versus the number of police at that time? So the population grows and the number of officers decreases. Think that one over and consider on a personal level what that means to you and your neighbors.

Secondly the **Metro Redesign and BRT** are not user friendly to residential neighborhoods. The biggest clue to this potential boondoggle is the premise from which Metro started this redesign: straight from Metro guy, "we assumed Madison had never had a bus system", not how can we tweak the system to make it more neighborhood and rider friendly.

Cutting service of existing routes to create a channel to the BRT does not meet the needs of neighborhoods. I live in Nakoma and we have had bus service since the 1920's. Metro has skewed its propaganda to treat BRT as the end all. Neighborhood routes have been eliminated. Metro is so excited to say the bus ride will be 3 minutes faster, but ignores the fact that a rider now must walk 15 minutes or more to get a bus and/or got through a transfer point and possibly missing the connection. BRT propaganda says but there will be four buses and hour across Midvale compared to one bus in or neighborhood every half hour or hour. My question to Metro are those four buses going to have at 30 riders per bus? Extremely doubtful.

As Alders I believe you are supposed to work for every resident of Madison and not limit yourself to your own personal issues. Cutting the budget should not have to be a conversation because the City Council encourages developers to build on the premise that is increases the tax base. So the tax base should be healthy at this time and your concerns should be to create a budget that keeps the city at its previous level of services, especially with these new taxes.

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:29 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Finance Committee members, Alders, and Mayor,

I'm writing today to say that the mayor's proposed budget is awash with misplaced priorities and corruption. The last year has seen public debates over how to solve houselessness in our community, and we've run up time and again against the constraints of the budget. But rather than taking bold budgetary action to provide the services and facilities that can hold our community together in the face of climate collapse, mass displacement, a coming wave of evictions in our community, and political turmoil around the nation, the Mayor has chosen to dump millions more into an already bloated policing budget to maintain a private standing army for the city to violently harass houseless folks trying to get by in an economy defined by shortages of affordable housing and well-paying jobs. This speaks to our priorities as a society: We would rather kick our problems down the road, letting them snowball into untenable situations that will inevitably escalate into civil unrest, than dedicate money to improving the living situation in our city. We would rather militarize and prepare to violently repress those who capitalism fails than build a city that's resilient to that turmoil, and that alleviates the suffering that causes turmoil.

Last year saw a mass uprising demanding the abolition of the institution of policing and its replacement with a system of community care that deals with antisocial behavior at its root, rather than waiting for conditions of neglect to boil over into violence. This demand was diluted by national media to a call for mere defunding of police- and I do believe that defunding the police is a workable first step towards building a society that places people first. And yet, as we slashed tens of millions off of the city's operating budget in the face of a global pandemic, we actually **\*increased\*** the police budget, rewarding them for their violent behavior, for continuing to ignore the murderer in their department, for escalating fully peaceful protests to the level of property damage with their militarized presence and indiscriminate use of physical and chemical weapons against civilians. And this year, as MPD continues to ignore its problems, as it [treats houseless folks staying at a shelter as prisoners, standing by as people suffer asthma attacks](#), the mayor once again wishes to reward violent behavior with millions of dollars of additional funding. MPD holds onto and protects its bad apples- and if you know anything about food preservation, you know that even one bad apple spoils the bunch. At this point, MPD is rotten to its core, and the knee-jerk reaction of throwing money at them to solve that has proven ineffective year after year.

This has gone on long enough. Defund the police, and shift that money to shelters and boarding houses for community members who've lost their homes, to urban farming projects and food pantries to feed our neighbors, to libraries and community centers and programs that interrupt antisocial behavior at its root, and to CAHOOTS and strong mental health care programs that are more equipped to manage crisis situations than armed vigilantes.

Thank you,

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips

[They/Them](#)

Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Bonnie ackerman <bonnieackerman@charter.net>  
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:26 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Safety and Budget

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**SAFETY:**

I am extremely concerned about all the car thefts, shootings and car jacking by gun point that is taking place in Madison.

Madison is no longer a safe place to live. I do not feel that the mayor and city council are making citizen's safety a top priority.

**BUDGET:**

I feel the proposed budget for the coming year is very short sighted regarding financing. It appears to only addresses financing for the coming year without consideration for longevity to funding yearly issues.

Thank you for serving and for considering my concerns.

Cecilia Ackerman  
17 Oak Creek Trl  
Madison Wi 53717

From: meganpbruun@gmail.com <meganpbruun@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:37 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: No increase for police spending

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

I'm writing to urge you to not increase the budget for the Madison police. This money could go to so many other causes that would help our community, such as helping with housing homeless people.

Here are a few ways that the budget could be decreased for the police:

Reduce the 168k for ammunition

Not adding new positions

Not getting new police drones

Please consider putting this money elsewhere, where it is more needed and would help the Madison community.

Thank you,  
Megan Bruun

312 N Blair St. APT 1  
Madison WI 53703

[Meganpbruun@gmail.com](mailto:Meganpbruun@gmail.com)

**From:** Bailey O'Malley <bwomalley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 7:09 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** no police budget increase

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I would like to oppose any increase to the police budget. I feel strongly that the police budget should be decreased and reallocated to support programs that will help all members of the community.

Thank you,  
Bailey O'Malley  
739 Williamson St

From: Peyton David <peyday44@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:29 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Opposition to Item 6 10/19 Meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning:

I am emailing to voice my opposition of the increase in funding for the Madison Police Department. This funding would be better allocated for community programs and mental health services. The increase in funding over the last several years has not curbed violence and crime. This funding should go towards resources for Madison community members instead.

I urge you to consider how an increase in police funding and presence will impact our most marginalized communities.

Thank you,  
Peyton

**From:** Jessica D <jessdufault@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:17 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Operating budget concerns

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders

I strongly oppose item 6.67496, particularly on the increased spending for mpd.

Your Madison constituents have been speaking loud and clear on how we do NOT support increasing budgets for MPD. And yet here we are again talking millions of dollars being invested in systems of oppression rather than systems of support. I can think of a hundred different ways I'd rather see this money used and I can promise you not one of them includes giving the police \$84M. And yet affordable housing is only getting \$6.8M and public health only \$7.2M? This is completely backwards. In case you missed it, we are demanding to defund the police. And if you forgot what that means, let me refresh your memory. It means investing money into systems of support like affordable housing and public health and divesting money from systems of oppression.

I could call into this meeting and waste everybody's time listing out the hundred of other options for investing this money into real community needs but we've done that already! And you refuse to listen.

What will it take for the city to listen to their community, divest from carceral punishment and give Madison a real opportunity to thrive? Let me know please.

Jessica Dufault

**From:** Allison Baldwin <acbaldwin49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common Council 10/19 @6PM Comment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am a resident of Madison who lives in District #2.

I oppose the proposed budget in Item #6 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget due to the \$2 million increase for police. Madison does not need an increased police budget and more police officers. The recent incident where officer Keith Brown fired his weapon during an arrest on State St. and struck officer Andy Garcia shows the incompetence of Madison police that we certainly do not need to fund more of. The Common Council should listen to what activists and the public have been calling for and decrease the police budget to divert police funding to social services like affordable housing and public health that Madison actually needs. At the very least, do not pass an increase in the police budget.

I also oppose the decreased speaking time limit for public hearings as proposed in Item #21 67638 Amending Section 2.30(2) of the Madison General Ordinances. The job of the Council, as officials elected by the people, is to let the people speak and to hear them out. This is a blatant attempt to silence the people of Madison from speaking out against the harm perpetuated by Madison Common Council.

Thank you,  
Allison Baldwin  
Madison, WI 53703

**From:** Dominique Barthel <dominiqueroseb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No MPD budget increase

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition of Common Council item 6 - the 2022 executive operating budget.

This proposal identifies funding to go to MPD for "reform and innovation initiatives". This is problematic for several reasons. For one, it is incredibly vague as to how this money will be spent. This is very concerning to me as a community member.

As a community member for five years, I've seen many problematic behaviors from MPD, even after the new sheriff has been appointed. I am very against allocating ANY increase in funds to MPD. They do not use their funding wisely. If they need money for reform, they should **take it from the money they spend to ride horses around (a historically racist form of intimidation and ineffective tool for keeping the community safe)**. We could also **reduce the \$168,000 spent on ammunition**...or not get a new police drone. There is no reason we should be giving MPD an increase in funding. If anything, it should be cut and used more effectively.

I'd love to see our community allocate this funding to support more effective public health efforts, such as helping the homelessness crisis.

Please listen to the community and advocate against increased MPD funding.

Thank you,  
Dominique

**From:** Bailey Wendelberger <bailey.wendelberger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:30 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

I want to urge you to prioritize funding for low income housing, ecological restoration of the city, and mental health support (like the CARES program) over adding more funding to the police. They have enough. People and the planet deserve better. Please oppose the Operating Budget and rework it to reflect the actual needs of this community, which is health and safety through accessible services.

Thank you,  
Bailey Wendelberger  
53704-ian

**From:** Ryan Eykholt <[ryan.eykholt@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.eykholt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** All Alders <[allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Common Council 10/19 Agenda Item 6

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

My name is Ryan Eykholt. I am a Madison resident, living on E Johnson St, 53703.

I have comments pertaining to Item 6 on today's Common Council meeting agenda, "ITEM 6. 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget".

I strongly oppose the amount of money in the 2022 Executive Operational Budget that is going to the police department. Over \$84 million going towards the police (\$2 million more than 2021) is excessive, dangerous, harmful, and wasteful. It is well documented that funneling more funding into police departments, as well as allowing these departments to operate without impunity, does nothing to reduce crime. Police cause immense harm to Black and Brown communities, and we cannot police our way out of that reality. It is well documented that defunding the police and refunding community/social services offers much more promising outcomes for the health, safety, and livelihoods of everyone in our communities, especially Black people, Indigenous people and other people of color.

I find it outrageous that the Mayor is attempting to give more money to MPD when so many people are suffering, and as she is only planning for \$6.8M for new affordable housing, \$7.2M for public health, and \$18.9M for libraries. Freedom Inc surveyed 1500+ people in Madison to create the [People's Budget](#), and the needs articulated in this thorough report are not reflected in the 2022 Executive Operating Budget.

I urge you to not increase the police budget as the Mayor has written into the executive budget. We do not need \$168K spent on ammunition. We do not need a mounted police program. We don't need more police officers. We *need* to invest in an infrastructure of support, care, and transformative justice. I hope you will make a decision that looks out for your constituents' priorities and does not contribute to the centuries-long harms against Black people.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Eykholt  
[ryan.eykholt@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.eykholt@gmail.com)

**From:** Allison Bell Bern <abellbern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to oppose the budget proposal- specifically the \$84+ million for the police. How many of you have begun devoting yourselves to developing a race analysis? You cannot do this work ethically without one and without centering it in your approach to everything you do.

The police make us less safe. You will see this if you actually study the issue as the activist community has done.

We may or may not show up and speak at the meeting. If we don't, it's not because we aren't paying attention any more now that the fervor has subsided. It's because you don't listen to us anyway.

Allison Bell Bern  
Abbas district

**From:** Tim K <timothykilkenny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 67496 2022 Executive Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I would implore you to take a second look at the executive operating budget for next year and recognize that there is a huge discrepancy between what is set aside for the Police Department, versus Public Health.

We could easily be making a bigger and more positive impact in our community if we invest more in wellness initiatives and violence prevention passed what is a paltry \$20,000 currently according to the budget.

I know that there are steps being taken to try and help more but when it comes down to it, literally putting our money where our mouths are is at least a good start. There have been major strides starting with the C.A.R.E.S. Program; we can continue to invest in our community by focusing on these alternative emergency response initiatives, and be an example for other cities around the country.

Thank you for your time,

Tim Kilkenny  
District 11  
(608) 843-1083

**From:** Danielle Ludtke <d\_ludtke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common Council – October 19, 2021

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Greetings,

With regards to Agenda Item # 67496 Executive Operating Budget, I have some concerns over some of the 2022 police department budget highlights:

- the change to ICAT is a reduction of \$65,000 when police training is more important to the safety of our community than ever; is that shift going to benefit all of us?
- the Dane County Narcotics Task Force has a \$432,600 grant and traffic enforcement anticipates \$733,700; what will that money be put towards? I'm concerned that these positions take advantage of people and discriminate based on what kind of car they drive or where they live, so putting ~\$1M more towards that will hurt my community.
- a Community Relations Specialist position is being filled, but at a net reduction of \$14,000; considering how important the relationship between the community and the police is, I worry that only having a single position and/or the compensation for that single position will be insufficient for our community's needs

Thank you for your time and attention. I know these issues are complicated and balance can be hard to find, I just want my community to be one where I'm 100% proud to be part of it.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ludtke

From: Pais Ley <pais4days@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:13 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am here to request from the bottom of my heart that you do not increase the police budget. Public housing and healthcare are what our communities really need, and these areas are severely under budgeted, especially in comparison to the police. Why would you choose to allocate our resources to an institution that we know disproportionately harms MANY people in our community, instead of in services that actually benefit people in need? I hope you consider this, and do the right thing. I know you know the right thing.

Sincerely,  
Paisley Koch

**From:** Olivia Williams <oliviareneewilliams@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:39 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Police & Housing budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi alders,

In reviewing the 2022 Executive Operating Budget, I was disheartened to see that the police budget has a proposed increase and will involve hiring new police, while many other departments are having to cut costs. Policing also takes up about a quarter of the whole Operating budget, at over \$82 million. We need to put our money where our mouth is as a community to say where our priorities lie. Please support a reduction of the police budget in order to fund more community services such as public health, housing, and libraries. Affordable housing is especially needed as home prices have gone up 13% in Madison in the last year. To help people out of poverty and reduce crime, they first need to be housed.

Thank you for your time,  
Olivia

**From:** Missy Mael <missy.mael@thercc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:24 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Common Council Agenda Item 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison Alders,

First, thank you for your service to the people of our great City. I know that you likely chose to become alders for the same reason I became a sexual violence educator and advocate—to help people and make our community a better place. I so appreciate that.

I'm writing today to oppose agenda item 67496, the operating budget currently being put forth by the Mayor's office.

I've spent several hours over the past week counseling MMSD staff about how to effectively support students and develop better policies and practices after yet another incident of sexual violence among their student body. Whether it occurs in school hallways, at school sponsored events, or at a home away from campus, our young people experience sexual violence at astronomical rates. This doesn't even take into consideration the horrific acts of violence perpetrated by adults who have been entrusted to care for our children. Statistically, 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18. Those statistics aren't as easy to find for transgender and non-binary kids, but we know that they are victimized at much, much higher rates.

Why am I telling you this? I'm telling you this because our City's operating budget continually forces agencies like ours to compete with valued community partners like DAIS and Focused Interruption Coalition for funding, even though the budget for the services we provide isn't enough for just one of our organizations. We work hard to find creative ways to collaborate and make the dollars stretch, and our work has truly lasting impact that has the potential to decrease suicide rates, addiction and drug abuse, and homelessness. However, the operating budget and ARPA funds that have been identified for crisis intervention and true violence prevention services are simply not enough.

If the City of Madison genuinely wants to change the culture of violence that is causing the increase in gun violence, car thefts, and other crime, you **MUST** invest in crisis intervention and violence prevention programming.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

In strength and solidarity,

**Missy Mael** *she/her/hers* ([what's this?](#))

Co-Executive Director/Director of Outreach



Office: (608) 251-5126

2801 Coho St., Ste. 301 | Madison, WI 53713

**From:** Jake Rodgers <jjrodge@sunprairieschools.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:44 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

As a voting member of District 6, I am asking that you do not increase funding for the Madison Police Department.

We do not need a two million dollar increase in spending for MPD. This money can be better spent elsewhere. Housing, education, health care, and mental health services. This is not what the people need.

Thank you,  
Jake Rodgers

**From:** Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** Finance <finance@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Madison Budget Shortfalls

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mr. David Schmiedicke  
Finance Director  
City of Madison

Thank you for your presentation about the Madison budget process and current overview of that budget at the Westside Community Conversation last Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Your presentation noted several items. First, the current budget for 2022 ongoing operations is being funded by onetime funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, onetime funds from the Tax Incremental Finance District #25, and Madison “rainy day” funds of eight million dollars. These funds will cover the budget years 2022 and 2023 but will not be able to cover the budget year 2024. You noted that cuts will most likely need to be made in 2024. Secondly, to cover the 2022 budget a recycling fee of \$3.00/monthly/household will be implemented in mid-year 2022. Finally, Madison’s Aaa bond rating is predicated on having the eight million dollar “rainy day” money available. Given these funds will be used up in 2022 there was no mention on how these monies would be replenished to preserve the Aaa bond rating.

To be transparent to the Madison citizenry, I request the following:

- 1) To be good financial stewards, Madison needs to currently address how it will approach the funding shortfall for 2024. Given that shortfall, you noted that cuts will need to be made. I would ask that a blog come from the mayor detailing what those cuts will be so those impacted by the reduced spending can have time to make plans to address that shortfall.
- 2) Again, to be good financial stewards, Madison needs to replenish those “rainy day” funds to ensure our bond rating does not decline thus increasing our borrowing costs with higher interest rates. Those higher interest rates will have a pernicious impact on the cost of debt for capital additions and on the debt issued to fund the Bus Rapid Transit project. I would ask another mayoral blog be issued addressing this point so the Madison citizenry can be fully informed.
- 3) As you agreed, a summary detailing and adding together all property taxes and fees (forestry, recycling, wheel tax, etc.) on an average Madison home be provided to Madison residents. I would request that this summary be provided on a 3-year comparative basis and be added to the mayor’s narrative provided with the yearend property tax bill.

Again, thank you for your budget presentation and I look forward to the explanations of the situations detailed above.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph R. Keyes  
District 11

**From:** Konkel, Brenda <brendakonkel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** What happened to funding for a new tiny house village?

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Last July the Common Council [allocated ARPA funds in the amount of \\$2M for "unsheltered homeless support"](#). At the time we understood, and we believe many others did, that \$1M would be used for encampments and \$1M would be used for a tiny house village. (See [tiny houses](#) mentioned in the Mayor's blog regarding this funding.)

At this time we understand that all of the money has been spent on the encampment and there is no additional funding for a third tiny house village.

We, the board of Occupy Madison, are particularly dismayed that so much money has been put into a "temporary" solution and that the permanent solution has been shelved. We are perplexed that you would purchase tiny houses from an out of state company when we could have built them at half the cost and used it as a community building effort. And, we are surprised you are putting so much funding into a temporary site that will be a fire training facility in the future, wasting money that could have been spent on a long term investment.

Additionally, Occupy Madison was bidding on 1901 Bartillon Drive. In good faith, we shared the elements of our offer to the city, offering to work with city staff. However, because the city was bidding against us at the time, the price went up to \$1M and we were unable to purchase the property, particularly understanding that there were now no funds available from the city. That particular property, with the building as it is, was ideal for us because we could have converted the building to a shop to build our tiny houses. We understand you plan to demolish that building and if it eventually becomes a tiny house village, it will cost approximately \$1.2M to replace the building with current construction costs.

To date, the only money the City of Madison has put into our two villages is \$150,000 for solar improvements. The rest of the funding for our villages has come entirely from fundraising, selling goods we make and grow and Dane County (\$200,000). We believe we have a sustainable and viable option for permanent housing for some people and that our villages serve as an important option in the range of solutions to ending homelessness in Dane County.

We are writing today to ask that you put money to purchase land for a 3rd tiny house village in the 2022 budget to replace the funding previously alleged to be allocated for tiny houses.

Should you have any questions, members of the board would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Brenda K. Konkel  
President, Occupy Madison

From: Michael Johnson <mjohnson@bgcdc.org>  
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:05 PM  
To: Satya Rhodes-Conway <satyarhodesconway@gmail.com>; All Alders  
<allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: MPD budget- Thanks in advance for your consideration

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Michael Johnson: Chief Barnes deserves support in his Inaugural MPD Budget

With the recent incidents happening in our city, we have a new chief of police that could be a game changer if given the opportunity and resources to do so.

Chief Barnes is a proven reformer, educator, and law enforcement expert who has been recognized by the National Institute of Justice as a Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Scholar. In his past practices, he has used data and science to help reduce crime. He also uses this approach to improve community and police relations. I recently learned that the Madison Police department has 4 LEADS Scholars that includes the Chief. This is largest number of any police department in the nation.

Our new chief also has experience working with civilian oversight boards and brings significant experience to his new position. Chief Barnes is a member of the National Police Foundation's Council on Police Reform and Race and is highly respected for his law enforcement work. I recently met with Chief Barnes, and he convinced me that he has a vision for community policing that is reflective of his budget priorities.

His current budget proposal includes:

1. Adding an additional staff member to Professional Standards and Internal Affairs to work with the new Intendent Monitor to expedite the citizen complaint process.
2. Adding a permanent Police Sergeant to his newly formed Gang and Neighborhood Crime Abatement Team to help address the rise in gun violence.
3. Creating a new division of police reform and innovation that would execute on the one hundred seventy-seven ad hoc recommendations as well as the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) report.
4. The Town of Madison will be annexed into the Madison Community in October of 2022 and Chief Barnes has proposed a balanced and equitable blueprint that is designed to keep our community safer without an abundance of over policing.
5. Creating a Community Engagement Specialist position to improve community and police relations and to help address critical communication and distrust that exist in our community.
6. His operational strategies include working with the Focused Interruption Coalition, Public Health, mental health agencies and other community partners and government agencies to alleviate gun violence and provide support to families of those impacted by violent crimes.

In addition, when he first started his assignment, we talked about the creation of a Youth Advisory Board. I watched him execute on that plan as he secured private funding to ensure that the voices of young people are being heard. I've also watched him develop his first comprehensive multi-year strategic plan which is important for a leader coming into new executive management role.

I believe we have an amazing opportunity to support an accomplished leader who is no stranger to successful reform and our city needs Chief Barnes to be successful. It is not enough to select Black executives in these roles and not offer them the full armor of support to help them achieve success for our city including supporting their budget priorities, operational recommendations, and offering moral support, especially early in their tenure.

I support Chief Barnes inaugural plans and hope he garners the support to make our community a safe and livable place for all Madisonians.

Michael Johnson is the President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County

**From:** Gene Cox <decox.2013@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 4:12 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Occupy Madison Board <omincboard@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** Funding for new tiny house village

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Last July the Common Council [allocated ARPA funds in the amount of \\$2M for "unsheltered homeless support"](#). At the time we understood, and we believe many others did, that \$1M would be used for encampments and \$1M would be used for a tiny house village. (See [tiny houses](#) mentioned in the Mayor's blog regarding this funding.)

At this time we understand that all of the money has been spent on the encampment and there is no additional funding for a third tiny house village.

We, the board of Occupy Madison, are particularly dismayed that so much money has been put into a "temporary" solution and that the permanent solution has been shelved. I have been a resident at the Third Street village for more than 6 years after experiencing just over a year of homelessness. Over the last 6 years, living in the village has enabled me to establish relationships within the Emerson East Neighborhood that promote a sense of safety, community, and belonging for us all. I have been a part of building an organization that promotes sustainability, both financially and environmentally, which has been an extremely fulfilling effort. I am equally dismayed and perplexed that you would purchase tiny houses from an out of state company when we could have built them at half the cost and used it as a community building effort. And, we are surprised you are putting so much funding into a temporary site that will be a fire training facility in the future, wasting money that could have been spent on a long term investment.

I was part of the Occupy Madison workgroup that was looking for and suggesting sites for a third tiny house village that fit our organization's criteria of available public transportation, food security, and a place to build community. We were bidding on the site at 1901 Bartillon Drive. In good faith, we agreed to share the elements of our offer to the city and have been willing to work with city staff. However, because the city was bidding against us at the time, the price went up to \$1M and we were unable to purchase the property, particularly understanding that there were now no funds available from the city. That particular property, with the building as it is, was ideal for us because we could have converted the building to a shop to build our tiny houses quicker. We understand you plan to demolish that building and if it eventually becomes a tiny house village, it will cost approximately \$1.2M to replace the building with current construction costs.

To date, the only money the City of Madison has put into our two villages is \$150,000 for solar improvements. The rest of the funding for our villages has come entirely from fundraising, selling goods we make and grow and Dane County (\$200,000). We believe we have a sustainable and viable option for permanent housing for some people and that our villages serve as an important option in the range of solutions to ending homelessness in Dane County.

I am writing today to ask that you put money to purchase land for a 3rd tiny house village in the 2022 budget to replace the funding previously alleged to be allocated for tiny houses.

Sincerely,

Gene Cox  
Co-Treasurer, Occupy Madison Inc  
608-957-3408  
[occupymadisoninc.com](http://occupymadisoninc.com)

**From:** Mary Odell <odellme@att.net>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 23, 2021 5:02 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Budget Concerns

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a longtime resident of Madison, I am writing this letter out of concern for the current proposed police budget. It seems counterintuitive to cut funding when the city is encouraging economic growth. The number of police officers on the street and behind the scene is very important to having a safe city.

Policing efforts include more than the big headline stories; every day policing efforts are very important to Madison residents. I want a full complement of officers to deal with incidents like sexual assault, carjacking's, home invasions, traffic accidents and speeding, and active shootings to name a few. Investigations in to past incidents are critical to right the ship and protect the victims. You may cite crime statistics in certain categories as going down, but the nature of many current crimes has become more violent for victims, so the statistics are misleading.

Admittedly, I am not a budget expert, but I know without adequate staffing in a growing population, Madison will become even less safe for residents. I know that budget issues are not simple and they should not be made without in depth study. I also do not want funds shifted from policing to support unproven programs.

As a resident of Madison, I am asking you not to cut more funding from the Madison Police Department. An analogy might be the first experience with illegal drugs does not often kill, but multiple experiences can be deadly. Shaving a budget can lead to big problems down the road, as the saying goes. I can speak from experience on this as I spent 38 years in the classroom and budget cuts do not solve problems; they create future problems of quality students and personnel.

P.S. Please study the repercussions of using up the "rainy day" funding ahead of the real rainy day. As a taxpayer, this possibility really concerns me.

**From:** Kathy <kaviets@charter.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:39 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed budget cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello All,

I am writing regarding potential budget cuts affecting the MPD.

Madison has become a crime, violence filled city. We need more officers not fewer.

The people with criminal intentions are encouraged by the lack of respect and support of law enforcement.

I am imploring you to please drop your agendas and do what has to be done to save this city! I hope it isn't already too late.

Respectfully,

Kathy Viets

**From:** Alice Ropella <aliceropella@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please reconsider your need to cut MPD funding. This crime in this city is unbelievable. I have lived here since 1973. I no longer feel safe going out at night. I don't get out of my car until I'm in my garage and the door is closed because people are getting carjacked. We are held hostage by criminals and you want to take away more officers with cutting funding. Why????? To spend more on OT when there are not enough officers to work shifts? As a taxpayer it was very disheartening to call the non emergency police number this past summer, on a Saturday night, and get told officers were too busy to deal with our situation and to "suck it up"! 2....a total of 2 officers for the entire east side that night! This is WRONG! We need more and you want less. Do you all have to have something tragic to happen in your families before you realize your actions are hurting all Madison residents? Find another way!

PS....I would not, as many others, use rapid transit because it still would NOT get me to where I need to go! And lowering speed limits....people that don't go 35 aren't going 25!! I live off Milwaukee St and these idiots just recklessly pass those of us that do go 25. But hey, where are all the officers that could bring in 1000's of \$\$s in fines?? No where because they don't exist because you all want to take away funding.....your actions are causing bad reactions. Rethink and re-set!

**From:** Susan Pride Caulum <spridec@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:59 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not cut funds from the Mayor's proposed budget for the Madison Police Department. With all the retirements, many "Priority Calls Only" instances and increased city size and population (including adding the Town of Madison), we need a full recruit class and protection. Thank you.

**From:** Lynn Hughes <finbar.hughe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 4:21 PM

**To:** financecommittee@cityofmadison.com; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Keep up the good work! Don't throw money at the policing problem.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hey,

I had an unfortunate encounter with a police officer in 2015 visiting the UW arboretum, I was sitting in my parents' vehicle waiting for them to exit the visitor center, an officer knocked on the window of the passenger side, gestured for me to roll down the windows. As you can't roll down the windows without the key in the ignition. I opened the door. The officer feared for his life at the prospect of a high schooler leaving a car to talk to him, and thus reached for his firearm and began to yell at me to not do such a thing.

I tell you this now because the so-called "Madison Area Safety Connection" posted all of these emails to spam with hypochondria. I fully disagree with their points, I think the police operating budget reduction is perfectly fine.

You can't throw money or training at the police force to fix cops like that. Carry on with programs like the CARES response teams, we need qualified professionals — not people who believe their life is at risk every time they don't get a raise or see a civilian minding their own business

Thanks for your time,

A concerned citizen.

**From:** Joanne Heil <joanne.m.heil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 5:48 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vote No on Reducing the Police Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Two alders (Keith Furman and Yannette Figueroa Cole) have proposed to remove \$795,000 of funds from MPD's proposed budget. This will reduce 11 positions from the 2022 recruit academy (that replaces officers lost to retirement and resignations) and eliminate a civilian position that Chief Barnes asked the Mayor to include in her operating budget (which she did) that would help the department collect and use data "to implement projects and services aimed at police reform."

Any cuts to the recruit academy will mean MPD will only be able to hire 36 recruits for the academy next year (even though 42 officers have already left MPD so far this year between Jan-Sept---a near record number). That also includes wiping out the 8 new police officer positions Chief Barnes asked the Mayor for (which she granted) to staff the almost-5000 residents who will join the city of Madison when the Town of Madison is dissolved next October. Yes, we would add nearly 5000 residents but give MPD no additional police officers to staff their calls for service.

If you want to show support for a safer Madison at a time when violent crime and reckless driving are on the increase in our city, please listen to your constituents who live in fear in what once was a safe and vibrant city.

**From:** William Sayles <wsayles1950@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose amendments to Operations Budget for reduce MPD funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The City of Madison has seen an increase in violent crime. In addition, the population is growing. It will expand further with the takeover of the Town of Madison. Also, there has been a high level of departures from MPD. These factors are increasing the demand for police services. Therefore, any effort to reduce the proposed budget for MPD is unwarranted. Any change should be to increase the budget!

William W. Sayles  
5017 Flad Ave.

**From:** Joseph Keyes <jkeyes1a1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 9:34 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose Cuts to Madison Police Department – Finance Committee Agenda Item #17

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison Finance Committee,

I oppose the cuts to the Madison Police Department as detailed in the proposed adjustments to the 2022 Executive Operating Budget (Item #17 – October 25, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting agenda) . What the cuts will do is to turn the department from a pro-active to a reactive department. Current public complaints revolve around reactive departments. These cuts will only result in those self-fulfilling complaints. Also, the Madison Police Department is experiencing more and extended periods of priority calls. The City Council is still demanding the current service levels without the resources to meet them. This is leading to an untenable situation. How can this situation be resolved? I would offer these solutions. First, don't send officers to Madison schools when fights break out like the one at East High last Wednesday. That disturbance required ten patrol officers and one supervisor. Why not send officers? The Madison Metropolitan School District has stated it has a highly trained safety team that can handle any eventuality. Secondly, don't send officers to ensure an area is safe for the CARES Team. Why? The CARES Team staff are experts in de-escalation and should not need police help. In fact, the CARES team is in existence because it is said uniformed officers just escalate situational tensions. Thirdly, don't conduct traffic enforcement operations on streets like Whitney Way where Traffic Engineering has reduced the speed limit to 25 mile per hour. Why? Motorists will voluntarily abide by the new speed limits. However, in actual experience that does not happen. I live a few houses from Whitney Way, and you can hear the high-pitched whine of motorbikes regularly speeding down Whitney Way to get to the beltline. Fourth, don't send officers to noise complaints to prevent further issues. Why? Because fights and subsequent murders won't happen. But they do happen as evidenced by the young man who was killed at a party by Breeze Terrace in September.

Yes, there will be detrimental consequences for not properly funding the Madison Police Department. But the responsibility for those consequences resides not with the Madison Police Department but with the Madison Common Council and rightfully so.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Keyes  
District 11

**From:** Ruth Crump <crumprg@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 24, 2021 10:47 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Proposed amendments to remove funds from the MPD's budget for 2022

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the Alders of the City of Madison, Wisconsin,

I'm writing in support of the Mayor's proposed budget for 2022 and against the amendments proposed by Alders Furman and Figueroa Cole which would significantly decrease the budget for MPD.

As Madison continues to grow, there is a need for adequate policing services for the community. We lost a large number of officers in this past year (2021) so far, and the loss of funding would not provide for adequate recruitment to replace even the ones that have left the department. Our police officers have had a difficult year, with shifts that have been much too long due to already inadequate staffing, with continuing loss of staffing, and an associated loss of morale. Those officers who in the past have worked proactively to minimize crime are now needed on patrol, so our communities will have fewer supports to help solve neighborhood issues that can lead to increased crime. I am also concerned about Amendment 19, which would remove funds for a position that would help in the collection of data to improve the functioning of MPD.

I have also written the mayor and finance committee regarding my strong belief that we need to ensure adequate support for MPD. I appreciate that the Mayor's budget, as originally proposed, provides much better support for MPD than we will have should the proposed amendments pass.

Thank you,  
Ruth Crump

**From:** Nickat Nite <nickatnite79@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:42 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD budget cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello all,

I am a lifelong resident and taxpayer of Madison (east side). I do NOT support further cuts to the police budget, which will impact public safety. As I understand it, two alders have proposed to remove a total of \$795,000 of funds from MPD. This is absolutely outrageous at a time when crime (petty and violent) continue to increase. We need to maintain a high quality of life in Madison, not diminish it by reducing the budget of our police force.

Nichole Flores

From: Daniel Battist <djbattist@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:44 AM  
To: Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; mayor@cityofmsdison.com; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Removing funding from MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning, Now does not seem like a good time to remove funding from MPD by diverting funds to the CARES pilot. Please find alternative funding sources for CARES and increase funding for MPD. MPD is drastically understaffed and responses time is suffering as well as excessive overtime to cover basic shifts. The increase in violent crime, reckless driving and the new speeding initiative all strongly suggest more police to insure public safety.

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 7:58 AM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

All:

Several staff reductions are proposed on the October 25th Finance Committee agenda, specifically Amendments 17, 18 and 19. I ask you to **REJECT these and all cuts to the Madison Police Department Budget.**

Crime is up and it affects the quality of life in all areas of the City. We will be absorbing new residents and a greater geographic footprint as the Town of Madison joins us.

As evidenced by the numbers in the 2022 Executive Budget (page 285), MPD staff is overworked and putting in large numbers of overtime hours to fulfill their responsibilities to us.

Overtime Projected for 2021:   \$4,543,845  
Overtime in 2022 Budget:       \$4,141,099

I want those officers who are willing serve us to be at the top of their game. That does not mean overworked, stressed, unable to balance work-life or having the time to recover from the traumatic events that they encounter on a daily basis.

Let's value the members of MPD and treat them like professionals. That means increasing staff to reduce the number of overtime hours that each officer is currently putting in on a regular basis.

**OPPOSE ALL CUTS TO MPD STAFFING!**

Thank you for supporting the work of our exceptional police officers and all of MPD.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

From: Tish Johnson <tish.johnson920@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:03 AM  
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Please Do Not Pass Budget Amendments 17, 18 and 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor, Alders and Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about three budget amendments, 17, 18 and 19, that you will consider. With the current issues we have with safety in our community, in our schools and on our streets, I cannot support these amendments and the impact they will have on the city's ability even maintain adequate policing resources. These safety issues, along with the integration of the Town of Madison, indicate a need for more, not less, police resources. I do not feel that retirements and other attrition were accounted for in the original budget and these proposed amendments, if passed, will force out more of our understaffed and overworked police without options for replacement. It is a vicious cycle that leaves our community increasingly more vulnerable.

I echo Chief Barnes's position that "we cannot afford to lose any resources and still maintain our current level of services" as well as his concerns about "the value and morale of our officers."

Please do not pass these amendments!!!

Sincerely,  
Tish Johnson  
5505 Tolman Terrace

**From:** Larry and Ginny White <lgwhites@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Don't Cut Police Department Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

The City Council, reportedly, is proposing to cut \$790K from the Police Department budget. We believe that would be ill-advised and counter-productive.

We want to see a less militarized, more humane police department, but not at the expense of public safety. Instead, additional money should be budgeted to better vet, train, and compensate police officers and to fund mental health and outreach positions.

The unfortunate slogan "Defund the Police" was never understood by most people to mean cutting police budgets. Rather, it expressed the idea that money should be *redirected* to hiring professionals to assist in situations involving mental health, addiction, and homelessness.

We urge the City Council to *add* money to the Police Department budget, not cut it.

Sincerely,

Ginny and Larry White

**From:** Tricia Lenzendorf <t\_lenzendorf@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposing Reduction of MPD proposed budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a 14 year Madison resident, I have never felt LESS safe in this city as I do today. We will not go downtown at night anymore, there is too much risk of being the victim of a crime. This city needs a larger change overall to fix the issues causing the crime, but reducing the MPD budget with the amount of crime currently happening is not the solution right now. I strongly oppose this proposal.

Tricia Sletten  
4115 Buckeye Road  
Madison, WI 53716

**From:** James Steinbach <jbsteinb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget - police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear neighbors:

I don't support any further reductions in funding for the Madison Police Department. In my immediate neighborhood area — Walnut Grove, Wexford Village, and Tamarack Trails — crime has increased. Shootings, robberies, car theft, mugging ... these can't become normalized. People are afraid and angry. Please hear us.

Thank you for your service to Madison.

James Steinbach

**From:** Mike Thomsen <mikethomsenorna@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 9:52 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose Cuts to MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Satya and Alders,

The Board of Directors of the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association OPPOSE any cuts to the MPD budget.

The Common Council has failed over the years to adequately staff MPD. In 2010 Madison had a population of 233,209 and 438 sworn police officers. In 2020 Madison had a population of 269,804 and 479 sworn officers.

Madison's population grew 14.7% but the number of sworn officers increased by just 9.4%. To keep up with the population growth through 2020 Madison should have had 507 sworn officers. And, the city should be adding 7 new sworn officers each year just to keep up with population growth. If policing were becoming more efficient, perhaps we could consider reductions in the "police officer-to-resident" ratio, however, it is not. There are more demands for documentation than ever thus we actually should be increasing the "police officer-to-resident" ratio.

It takes two years to train and prepare a new police officer for the streets. The Common Council's failure to properly staff MPD in the past is showing up in exploding crime today. PLEASE, do not worsen the situation by adopting the budget amendments offered by alders Furman and Figueroa-Cole. They are shortsighted and will harm our city.

Sincerely yours,  
Mike Thomsen

--

Mike Thomsen, President  
Orchard Ridge Neighborhood Association

**From:** Wendy Reichel <reichelwendy@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:18 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>; Patton, Timothy <TPatton@cityofmadison.com>; Freedman, Jason <JFreedman@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Vote No on Amendments 17-19--It's Negligence

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Finance Committee alders and Mayor,

To propose taking \$795,000 from MPD's budget at this tipping point in our city's safety is negligence.

We're going to welcome almost 5000 residents from the Town of Madison but then tell them they aren't getting any police services? And MPD will lose 3 additional officer positions in addition to the 8---at a time when MPD is struggling to meet critical daily hard staffing minimums and gun violence incidents and reckless driving are affecting residents' daily quality of life like never before.

Please talk to or take a ride-along with the officers who are covering all of these overtime shifts. I have. They are burned out and morale is at an all-time low. They can't guarantee to their families that they'll be home to attend family events or pick up their kids from daycare or get time off for the mental or physical breaks they need. That's why so many of them are quitting or retiring. When they leave, all of their training (that we paid for!) and experience goes out the door with them.

And as a taxpayer I also don't appreciate paying for 1.5 cops and only getting 1 which is what happens every time an officer is called in early or is asked to stay late---all of us pay for their entire 12-hour shift, not just the 4 hours of overtime they put in.

Finally, while I (as well as the many police officers I've spoken to) hope the CARES program is a big success, it does not and will not ever replace the need for police officers to respond to most calls for service. And the program will not be able to relieve MPD of the most time and labor intensive calls---those involving weapons and those involving mental health detentions (because by state statute only a law enforcement officer can take someone into protective custody).

MPD responds to 400 to 500 calls PER DAY on average (pre-COVID that number was starting to hit the 600s). The CARES unit answered 37 calls in its first 5 weeks. Again, I wish them all the success in the world so they can help hurting people in our community. But during that 5 weeks, MPD responded to approximately 12,205 calls for service.

Even if this \$795,000 grab from MPD's budget is able to create 7 or 8 more CARES teams, they will only be able to respond to 400 to 500 calls PER MONTH. That's what MPD responds to in ONE DAY. And CARES will not be picking up bullet casings and interviewing families of victims lost to gun violence. Nor will they be arresting car thieves, domestic abusers or issuing tickets to reckless drivers on East Washington Avenue.

The CARES program is not a substitute for MPD officers and it should not be funded from MPD's budget. Please vote NO on amendments 17, 18 and 19.

Thank you!  
Wendy Reichel  
District 10

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Harried <kohunter722@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:24 AM

To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee  
<financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Reduction of Budget to Madison Police

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To all city leaders,

I urge you to reject any motions or amendments to the city budget that reduce monies to the Madison Police Department or any other protective services.

As a lifelong resident of the city I can tell you the landscape has changed. Every day there are news reports of violent acts of criminal activity. There are reports of personal property damage or theft. We as a community not only expect our police services to respond to these issues but also improve upon the community to reduce these activities in general.

These protective services require funding and staffing to not only maintain the current system but to improve the community in every way that we as residents expect from our city leaders.

From a voice of one resident, please reject any elimination of funds from any of our emergency services.  
(Police or Fire)

Kevin Harried

**From:** doug.subak@kellogg.com <doug.subak@kellogg.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Defunding law enforcement

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Doug Subak  
**Address:** 4211 Hegg Ave, Madison , Wi 53716  
**Phone:** 608-359-1053  
**Email:** [doug.subak@kellogg.com](mailto:doug.subak@kellogg.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Hi, we should be increasing funding for law enforcement and not decreasing funding for law enforcement, the council should vote no on reduce funding for law enforcement, thank you, Doug

**From:** Charles James <cjjames@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No cuts to the MPD!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I understand you are planning to cut the budget of the Madison Police Department by almost a million dollars. OK, maybe it's "only" \$795,000, but that's still too much. If so, this is pure insanity! What are you thinking!

Respectfully,

Charles

Charles J. James  
4018 St. Clair  
District 11

**From:** madves <madves@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:06 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget amendments

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Budget amendment 17, 18, 19 Should be rejected. Reductions in the police budget at this time with the crime rates and the departure of current staff is not timely.

Kevin Vesperman  
608-628-8041

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Conway and Council Members:

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the proposed \$790,000 in budget cuts to the MPD & which includes cutting the needed 8 additional police officers to patrol the Town of Madison population by the MPD of 8,000 + by City Council members. We need these 8 additional police officers for the Town of Madison's merger with the City of Madison.

I do not approve of any funding being removed from our already-understaffed police department---especially at a time when violent crime and reckless driving on our streets is increasing.

MPD is seeing the highest number of resignations in 10 years and as of September 30th, resignations and retirements are 2 short of hitting the all-time record. So far this year 42 officers have left MPD. MPD is having trouble staffing shifts daily. Officers are staying over an extra 4 hours or are coming in early and working overtime to fill those shifts but it's become too burdensome. Officer morale is at its lowest point ever and many more officers are poised to leave for careers that won't make them work overtime every day or every other day. As a nurse, I understand how stressful and dangerous working short-staffed, especially on such a regular basis, is. Council members proposed cuts, reducing the police budget by \$795,000 which will impact the size of MPD's next year's recruit academy by 11 officers to replace officers lost to attrition and those 11 officers don't even begin to fill the gap.

More budget cuts will only increase attrition, and potentially mistakes, as I have seen in the hospital with increased hours, fatigue, and stress. In addition, when there aren't enough officers available for the city, the city goes into priority-only call status and officers are only dispatched to serious calls involving weapons, life in danger, or a traffic accident with injuries. All other calls are triaged until more officers become available again. When you call 911 or non-emergency you may be told by a dispatcher that your call is not urgent and therefore will have to be stacked in a queue. That is not the kind of service I expect from my city.

In addition, an amendment denies Police Chief Barnes his civilian position he requested that would "improve data collection and analysis supporting data-informed decision-making, violence reduction, and crime prevention." He considered this position the key to his success in doing more with fewer resources. His expertise is in data-driven police policy reform and innovation. This cut seems counterproductive.

While I support innovation in crime reduction, restorative justice, and police training, we need a fully staffed, well-trained police force in the meantime.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jayne Meyer

District 9

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Your Conscience is On Display

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I meant to also cc all Alders on this email below. I hope you will all be attending the Finance Committee meeting today at 4:30 pm.

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/finance-committee/10-25-2021>

Thank you for your leadership of our City,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 25, 2021, 10:50 AM  
**Subject:** Your Conscience is On Display  
**To:** <[financecommittee@cityofmadison.com](mailto:financecommittee@cityofmadison.com)>, Alder Yannette Figueiroa Cole <[district10@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district10@cityofmadison.com)>, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway <[SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** Chief Shon Barnes <[sbarnes@cityofmadison.com](mailto:sbarnes@cityofmadison.com)>

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

If you vote yes on Amdments 17, 18, and 19 tonight, you are doing so:

- Against the wishes of Chief Davis of the Fire Department, which houses CARES.
- Against the informed and expert advice of Chief Barnes, who believes his civilian data and innovation position would help him mazimize the efficiency of his department.
- Against the Mayor's promise to add 8 officers for the Town of Madison attachment (this removes them by capping the recruit academy so it cannot keep up with attrition). This is an equity problem.
- In spite of the fact that our police department is experiencing extreme staffing shortages and unable to recoup last year's attrition, not to mention this year's record level.
- Against all common sense in light of workforce trends, growing population, and residents' growing concerns with rising violent crime and reckless driving, etc.

You will be held publicly accountable to the City you steward for your votes on these amendments.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748

**From:** Gina Landucci <glanducci@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:21 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Alder-proposed MPD reductions

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, I was very dismayed to learn of alder proposed budget reductions to the Mayor's operational budget. This is unfortunately a knee-jerk reaction that has the potential to make a tough situation even worse. Alders need to talk and work with the MPD and discuss ways to use resources *differently*, rather than just slashing budgets.

This lack of detailed collaborative work is further emphasized by the amendment, again proposed by the alders, that denies Chief Barnes the civilian position he requested to bring about data-driven police reform and innovation.

Alders are put in place to speak for communities and on this issue I feel they are not doing a good job of listening and working with all voices to come to a solution. I am adamantly opposed to these proposals.

Sincerely,  
Gina Landucci

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget Amendments-Ambulance Conveyance Fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor, Alders:

I am asking you to **OPPOSE Budget Amendment #16 which increases the ambulance conveyance fee to \$1,410.**

This is an exorbitant 33% increase from \$1,075 in a two year period. With an increased travel time from Middleton and Sun Prairie, their fees should not be used as a comparison to the Madison fees.

An increase in cost will mean that many people will think twice about calling for an ambulance. In turn, this will result in negative healthcare outcomes for many residents.

Let's be proactive in offering affordable healthcare for Madison residents.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

**From:** judybl@tds.net <judybl@tds.net>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 11:57 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please vote NO on Amendments 17, 18 and 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Please vote NO on Amendments 17, 18 and 19 which reduce even more officers from MPD's already short-staffed department. This is not the time to be decreasing police resources when neighborhoods like mine are seeing a significant increase in gun violence incidents.

I have lived in my neighborhood for 35 years and I have never been scared to walk after dark, but I am now. And after several armed robberies in the last few months, I'm fearful of visiting my neighborhood Walgreens. Other neighbors are also afraid and have transferred their prescriptions to another pharmacy.

And with shooting and carjacking incidents at the gas station nearest to my house, I now only get gas during the daytime, and I feel apprehensive any time I go there.

This increase in violent crime incidents in my neighborhood is having a direct impact on my quality of life. A few weeks ago the occupants of two vehicles were shooting at each other on a street in my neighborhood. One of the stray bullets entered a home and struck a mattress. It landed only 12 inches away from someone who was sleeping in that bed. It's a miracle they weren't injured or killed.

We need MORE police officers that can have a presence and help solve crimes in our neighborhoods, not fewer.

Thank you,  
Judy Bluel  
District 9

**From:** John Fons <jefons@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Mismanagement

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Madison is reportedly spending nearly one million dollars to create an encampment for a limited number of homeless in this city. It will cost a reported \$70,000 per month to keep that encampment in operation. Yet you consider decreasing funding to the Madison Police Department by at least the same amount and make it impossible for MPD to recruit officers to replace those who retire or resign.

These decisions are your responsibility and you will be held accountable by the citizens of Madison who pay taxes and rely on tax supported services for their safety and livelihood.

Think carefully.

John Fons  
4634 Tokay Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-236-0844 Hm  
661-917-0850 cell

From: Ruth Sybers <knitterstreat@wekz.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:03 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Police budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not cut the police budget.

Safety of our city residents is at stake.

Dwindling number of staff are available to respond to calls. Pressure of today's world is resulting in more retirements and resignations - long hours and overtime are wearing out front line workers - just like medical staff.

It takes a long time to train w police officers. - don't continue the present downward trend.

Our police department took years to develop Community policing, much of which is preventative and is not as measurable as the crime statistics.

Traffic habits unchecked are producing needless injuries and deaths. We need education and enforcement. Grants are great but uncertain and sporadic.

Courts are in a hard place as well.

If only the police did not have to spend hours at hospitals and transporting mental commitments to mental health facilities. Gradually getting mental health to transition to a new mental health venue is great but in today's world there will always be the 911 call first to police.

Please help the MPD directed towards our safety by fully funding them.

Ruth Sybers

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget-Streets-Drop-off

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor and Alder:

Please **OPPOSE Amendment #15 which prematurely opens an Olin Avenue public drop-off site.**

Yes, Downtown residents will have further to go to reach Sycamore or South Point. Since the reverse has been true for years, restoring this funding has the appearance of giving preferential treatment to the central city.

Let's all make some sacrifices to bring down our debt load.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 12:36 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget Amendments-Ambulance Conveyance Fee

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Finance Committee, Mayor, Alders:

I am asking you to **OPPOSE Budget Amendment #16 which increases the ambulance conveyance fee to \$1,410.**

This is an exorbitant 33% increase from \$1,075 in a two-year period. With an increased travel time from Middleton and Sun Prairie, their fees should not be used as a comparison to the Madison fees.

An increase in cost will mean that many people will think twice about calling for an ambulance. In turn, this will result in negative healthcare outcomes for many residents.

Let's be proactive in offering affordable healthcare for Madison residents.

Jayne Meyer

District 9

From: Terry Ludkey <ludkeys@charter.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:00 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc:  
reply+GEYTAMRQGE3DIX3QOJXWI5LDORUW63S7KBHVGVC7GIYDKNBYGAZDGNA=@reply  
.nextdoor.com  
Subject: Reduction of MPD Budget Request

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am unalterably opposed to the proposed amendments which ask for a reduction in the Madison Police Department portion of the city budget.

If there is to be any hope whatsoever of reducing gun violence, other violence, speeding, and a general disregard for the law, lawbreakers need to know that the city is able and willing to quell the same.

That response cannot happen with this proposed reduction.

Please reconsider and reject these amendments and grant full funding to the Madison Police Department.

Terrence L. Ludkey  
711 McClellan Drive  
Madison, WI. 53718

**From:** Kim Richman <krichman@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Say NO to Amendments 17, 18, 19.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madam Mayor and ALL Alders,

**If they come before you**, I urge you **NOT** to consider the irresponsible 2022 budget amendments 17, 18, or 19. **I DO NOT** support any defunding, redirecting, reallocating, or reimagining of funds **AWAY** from the Madison Police Department. Those ladies and gentlemen are already dangerously stretched thin in the highest risk job in the city. On a regular basis, dispatchers are asking for extended shifts, calling in officers to fill voids, causing unnecessary extreme overtime costs. CARES is a welcome addition to Madison, but it's NOT a replacement for an MPD officer and NO funding should be redirected away from MPD for it.

I live of the far-east side where I've seen steady, fast growth East of the Interstate. There are countless homes under construction in the Grandview Commons North & South neighborhoods, The Meadowlands, and Autumn Woods neighborhoods. In addition there are MANY multi-unit "complexes" (if you will) under construction. Since 2019, on the Cottage Grove Road corridor, multi-unit buildings such as The Grove, Royster Commons and Pinney Lane have been built. Pinney Lane and Royster Commons have expansions currently under construction. Ace apartments on Cottage Grove Road at Acewood Blvd are under construction. Another large multi-unit building is currently under construction on Cottage Grove Road at North Star Drive. To the north, along Milwaukee Street (also east of the Interstate), Harmony Apartments recently opened. There are 2 more large multi-unit projects under construction. One at Milwaukee Street at Sprecher, and a HUGE one just a few blocks East. **Those "rental" units alone account for at least 1000 more units, (1500 to 3000 more people) in a short period of time, and that DOES NOT include people in the new homes.**

Now, multiply that by the other neighborhoods in Madison where there is construction and city growth. Then add in the 5000 residents of the Town of Madison that the city is annexing. As I mentioned, MPD is already stretch thin, any reduction whatsoever would be detrimental to community safety.

My point? MPD officers have only increased 9%, while at the same time (according to Madison.com), Madison has grown almost 16% since 2010. That's a disturbing trend.

Unless you aren't paying attention to your constituents, you can see what's happening with more violent crimes.

Put your agendas and politics aside and use some common sense.

Past Common Councils have not done well in this area.

YOU, as current members of the Common Council have the ability to change it.

If amendments 17, 18, & 19 come before for you, and you vote FOR them, you will individually and publicly be held accountable for your actions.

Respectfully;

Kim Richman  
16th District

From: Glori Sabin <kdietzman@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:52 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Common Council Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

This is a plea that you strike down the amendments #17, #18 and #19 that were submitted by 2 alders to remove \$795,000 from the MPD's budget. How could anyone think that this is a logical request? We are totally against ANY reduction to the MPD's proposed budget. Thank you

Kim Dietzman and Glori Sabin  
10 Jubilee Circle  
Madison Wi 53718

**From:** Elizabeth Falkos <bdjfalkos@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 2:45 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Fw: Finance Committee- TONIGHT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Mayor:

Can we agree on how wonderful our beautiful city of Madison is? **Yes.**

Can we have consensus that social/city services keep it that way? **Yes.**

Can we agree on the importance of funding public safety through reasonable funding for the MPD? **Apparently not.**

With higher population, higher crime rates, and more violent crime, how can you possibly squeeze the MPD anymore? We will continue to pay the price for this with tax payers moving out of the city and people left here suffering under a diminishing quality of life.

We have a diverse, professional, committed, well-trained police force with excellent leadership that is already under-staffed. It is not reasonable to limit the number of trainees in the police academy and overwork the officers we have. It is irresponsible to depend on officers working overtime as the normal way of operations. The CARES team is a great adjunct, but it cannot handle the level of calls that the MPD covers and cannot replace the MPD. CARES funding needs to be separate from MPD funding.

I do not want Madison to be a place where residents hear gun shots and people fear driving or crossing a street due to flagrant disregard of our laws. I do not want Madison to be a place with home burglaries and armed robberies. Our security and sense of pride in this city can slip away by the incessant chipping away at the MPD. The Common Council fighting every year over funding of the MPD is bad for officer morale and for hiring future officers. Less funding for the MPD means more crime.

I protest the proposed amendments 17, 18 and 19 and urge appropriate funding of the MPD to keep us all safe.

Thank you,  
Beth Falkos  
6218 Countryside Ln  
Madison, WI 53705

**From:** Paul Skidmore <paulskidmore@tds.net>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:17 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** MPD Budget Cuts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Conway and Council Members:

I am writing today to oppose the proposed \$790,000 in budget cuts to the MPD that will be considered at tonight's Finance Committee meeting. These cuts, include the elimination the 8 additional police officers needed to patrol the Town of Madison population by the MPD. We need these 8 additional police officers to adequately provide public safety for the Town of Madison's merger with the City of Madison.

Also, I do not approve of any funding being removed from our already-understaffed police department--especially at a time when violent crime and reckless driving on our streets is increasing.

MPD is seeing the highest number of resignations in 10 years and as of September 30th, resignations and retirements are 2 short of hitting the all-time record. So far this year 42 officers have left MPD. MPD is having trouble staffing shifts daily. Officers are staying over an extra 4 hours or are coming in early and working overtime to fill those shifts but it's become too burdensome. Officer morale is at its lowest point ever and many more officers are poised to leave for careers that won't make them work overtime every day or every other day. As a nurse, I understand how stressful and dangerous working short-staffed, especially on such a regular basis, is. Council members proposed cuts, reducing the police budget by \$795,000 which will impact the size of MPD's next year's recruit academy by 11 officers to replace officers lost to attrition and those 11 officers don't even begin to fill the gap.

More budget cuts will only increase attrition, and potentially mistakes, as I have seen in the hospital with increased hours, fatigue, and stress. In addition, when there aren't enough officers available for the city, the city goes into priority-only call status and officers are only dispatched to serious calls involving weapons, life in danger, or a traffic accident with injuries. All other calls are triaged until more officers become available again. When you call 911 or non-emergency you may be told by a dispatcher that your call is not urgent and therefore will have to be stacked in a queue. That is not the kind of service I expect from my city.

In addition, an amendment denies Police Chief Barnes his civilian position he requested that would "improve data collection and analysis supporting data-informed decision-making, violence reduction, and crime prevention." He considered this position the key to his success in doing more with fewer resources. His expertise is in data-driven police policy reform and innovation. This cut seems counterproductive.

While I support innovation in crime reduction, restorative justice, and police training, we will always need a fully staffed, well-trained police force that is capable of ending the threats that we are experiencing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Skidmore  
District 9

**From:** Joni Mitchell <jonimitchell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 3:36 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Reducing funds for MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am vehemently against reducing funds and police officers. Our crime is soaring in Madison. I am so upset about this!

Joni Mitchell  
702 Herndon Drive  
Madison 53718

**From:** marylinmalloy@gmail.com <marylinmalloy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Finance Committee Amendments

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Mary Malloy  
**Address:** 4414 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [marylinmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:marylinmalloy@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote to Amendments 17, 18, and 19. Do not take money from the police budget for the CARES Team.

**From:** rmklemme@wisc.edu <rmklemme@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Amendments 17, 18, 19

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Rick Klemme  
**Address:** 142 Larkin St., Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [rmklemme@wisc.edu](mailto:rmklemme@wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote no on these amendments that move funds from police to the CARES team. Police budget is already short.

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposing the budget as is, support amendments 17, 18, 19

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I wrote in earlier this month with more, but I'm writing today to say that I support amendments 17, 18, and 19 to the budget, which reallocate money from a bloated and corrupt police department to emergency services which support our community.

This month, one MPD officer shot another while attempting to murder a member of the community in an overly aggressive, militarized response to a simple violation of a nanny-state bail provision which was observed via an invasive use of live surveillance downtown. MPD subsequently framed this man for their own mistake and set his bail prohibitively high to maintain their smear campaign. All of this obscures the fact that we were a few inches away from another Black man killed by MPD, this time downtown. This behavior should not be rewarded with any additional funding. We have seen time and again that rewarding this sort of bad behavior leads to more militarized and aggressive cops. MPD's budget needs to be reduced and used to fund crisis intervention to prevent future catastrophe like this.

-Jack

**From:** Maureen Engelberger <engmau48@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 6:36 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget for 2022

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To all Alders and Mayor:

Please pay very close attention to the proposal to decrease the budget for MPD for 2022. Our city has NEVER experienced the numbers of speeders and crime that has occurred in the past two years. It goes against logic in keeping our city safe to reduce a budget for a police department! The budget needs to be INCREASED, NOT DECREASED!!!!!! I beg you to give this item your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Engelberger  
[engmau48@gmail.com](mailto:engmau48@gmail.com)

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2021 7:02 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Amendments

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Mayor and Alders,

If it's not too late I would like to register my support for Amendments 6, 12, 13 and 14.

I strongly oppose amendmentd 17, 18 and 19.

Thank you,  
Bonnie

From: James Flemal <badgerjdf@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:34 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: MPD budget reduction

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please do not allow the reduction of funds to the MPD operating budget. We need our police force.  
JD Flemal

From: Rosalie Migas <romigas@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 10:06 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: police funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

With the annual budget being under consideration, I would urge you to continue, if not increase funding for the police. While Madison is a safe community, the number of shootings in previously quiet neighbors is concerning.

Regards,  
Rosalie Migas  
5913 South Hill Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

**From:** jillmaidenberg@gmail.com <jillmaidenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:08 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Monroe Street Library hours

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Jill Maidenberg  
**Address:** 2809 Mason Street, Madison, WI 53705  
**Email:** [jillmaidenberg@gmail.com](mailto:jillmaidenberg@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I have worked at the Monroe Street Library for 9 years. I hope you will do everything in your power to restore Monroe Street Library's hours to five days of service.

I know you have data that show our robust circulation and number of visits despite our small size. I want to tell you about a few instances that will not show up in the data.

— People from outside the Monroe Street neighborhood are not necessarily aware of our shortened hours. Twice this past week when I have been at the library during closed hours I have seen people outside the library using their phones to access our wireless - once in our parking lot, once on the steps leading from the emergency exit. They had no idea our service hours are so limited.

— In early September a young kid wearing a big backpack came to the desk around 3:00 one busy Friday. She said, "Can I ask you a question?" She asked, "How do I get home?"

She is a third grader at Randall. It was the end of her first week at her new school. Until that day she had walked home with bigger kids, but that day they had something else going on.

She lives on one of the streets between the zoo and Park Street. She said she'd know how to get home once she got to the zoo. I walked with her to the zoo, then she skipped off, knowing how to get home.

I'm so glad we were open that day! What if we hadn't been open? While she likely would have found someone to help get her get home, this incident is a reminder that the library is more than a collection of materials: it's a safe neighborhood space. And she knew it.

Restoration of 5 days of service would benefit the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration.

— Jill Maidenberg

**From:** jetbrey@gmail.com <jetbrey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:40 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Monroe Street Branch Library

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Jeanette Froehle  
**Address:** 205 S Allen St, Madison, wi 53726  
**Email:** [jetbrey@gmail.com](mailto:jetbrey@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I am asking you with all my heart to support the amendment to restore our library to 5 days of service in 2022. This little library is the heart of our neighborhood, and every neighborhood needs its heart. Thank you. Jeanette

**From:** Jason Ilstrup <jilstrup@downtownmadison.org>

**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:02 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Downtown Madison, Inc. (DMI) Supports Capital Budget Amendment 15 - Research on Federal Funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Afternoon Alders:

I hope you're all having a great week. I'm writing you today to express DMI's strong support of capital budget amendment 15, East/West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

As you may know, DMI is a member organization, made up of businesses and non-profits of all shapes and sizes (over 50% of our membership is a non-profit or has less than 10 employees) working to create an equitable, vibrant downtown where everyone feels welcome. As such, earlier this year, our Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the attached statement opposing the proposed routes downtown and placement of stations on State Street and the Capitol Square. DMI continues to zealously advocate for BRT, however we are not in agreement with the City on their proposed route through part of downtown. This position leads us to strongly support capital budget amendment 15. We believe the amendment will help ensure the community, through the Common Council, controls the important decisions regarding routes and stations while still allowing design work to go forward for BRT.

When weighing our position to support this amendment, we paused when hearing from the City that any delay could jeopardize Federal funding. As staunch supporters of BRT, DMI does not want to do anything to potentially ruin Madison's effort at funding. Therefore, the DMI policy research team (graduate students from the La Follette School of Public Affairs) researched whether or not delays during the project development phase of BRT (the stage Madison is currently in) would jeopardize construction grant funding. Our team put together the attached summary of our research and found that **no project lost their eligibility to receive Federal funding due to delay in the project**. We've included numerous examples of projects with delays (for various reasons) that all still received their construction grants and therefore either are in construction or have completed their project. With this information, we feel that asking the Council to thoroughly review the routes and stations is the right way to go.

Thank you all for your leadership in the community. Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything from us. Hope you have a great weekend.

Jason Ilstrup  
President  
Downtown Madison Inc.  
122 West Washington Avenue, Suite 250  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
608.512.1330  
[www.downtownmadison.org](http://www.downtownmadison.org)





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (DATE: July 14, 2021)  
Contact: Jason Ilstrup, Downtown Madison, Inc., 608.512.1330

## Downtown Madison Inc. (DMI) Statement on State Street and Bus Rapid Transit

MADISON – Downtown Madison Inc. (DMI) strongly supports Bus Rapid Transit (BRT); however, we join other stakeholders in opposition of the proposed routes downtown and placement of stations on State Street and the Capitol Square.

We have reached this decision through our ongoing conversations with the community, residents, small business owners, property owners, Madison's Central Business Improvement District (CID), the City of Madison, Alders, and other stakeholders. We insist on having inclusive conversations to find a mutually agreed upon compromise for alternative station locations that will best serve BRT riders and will not disrupt businesses.

Ultimately, we share the Mayor's goal: to build a vibrant, economically strong, and equitable downtown where everyone feels welcome. We are confident that together we can achieve this common goal, which includes the exciting addition of BRT.

For more information, please contact Jason Ilstrup at [jilstrup@downtownmadison.org](mailto:jilstrup@downtownmadison.org).

### *About Downtown Madison, Inc.:*

Downtown Madison, Inc. (DMI) is committed to sustaining, planning for, and growing downtown Madison as a vibrant regional economic engine that offers a best-in-class quality of life for businesses, downtown workers, residents, and visitors. Learn more at [downtownmadison.org](http://downtownmadison.org).

## Delay In BRT: A Common Speedbump to a Construction Grant

Prepared by Downtown Madison, Inc.\*

There is no reliable estimate for an “average” amount of time to implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Some BRT projects take longer than others to develop given their unique size, complexity, partnerships, and the amount of funding required for the project. However, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that project sponsors obtain commitments of at least 50 percent of all non-Capital Investment Grant (CIG) funds within three years of a Small Starts project’s advancement into Project Development and continue to make sufficient progress on advancing the level of design of the project during that time.<sup>1</sup>

The following table collects each BRT project that have either entered Project Development (excluding Fiscal Year 2022) or have finally received their FTA Construction Grant since Fiscal Year 2016. **While each project is likely to have faced steps in planning and project delivery that had introduced delay, no project lost their eligibility to receive the FTA Construction grant due to delay.**

Ideally a city will face no delay though, in practice, a city should be willing to do so. Albuquerque is a case study of a BRT Project Development that worked through delay caused, in part, by a push to launch BRT before their electric buses were fully tested and ready. In addition, delay from vocal opponents, mayoral and federal administration changes, and two lawsuits, together highlight important BRT implementation lessons for other U.S. cities. On page three are highlights from the Albuquerque case study from the Institute for Transportation & Development Policy’s *Getting to BRT: Implementation Guide for U.S. Cities*.<sup>2</sup>

BRT corridors are capital-intensive projects that require extensive infrastructure development. As a result, a city must consider the challenges to finance BRT operations. If a sponsor cannot gain at least 50 percent of non-CIG funding commitments during the first three years of Project Development, FTA would withdraw the project from the Small Starts program and would require the sponsor to reapply when that level of funding is secured.<sup>3</sup> Page four identifies four such BRT projects that have faced delay during Project Development due to either the extra time and cost to access federal funding or the challenge to secure local and state funding. **Seattle’s current K-Line project aside, all other BRT lines that faced funding delay are now Under Construction or Complete.**

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\* Gabriel Stowe Terrell is a M.P.A. candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs.

<sup>1</sup> Federal Transit Administration, “FAQ: Is there a timeframe within which projects must complete the steps in the process for a construction grant agreement?” Department of Transportation, [https://www.transit.dot.gov/faq?combine=&term\\_node\\_tid\\_depth=2586](https://www.transit.dot.gov/faq?combine=&term_node_tid_depth=2586).

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Transportation & Development Policy, “Case Study: Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) BRT,” in *Getting to BRT: An Implementation Guide for U.S. Cities*, pp. 122-148, (Sept. 20219). <https://www.itdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019.08.04.US-BRT-Implementation-Guide.V7.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Transit Administration, “Chapter II: Small Starts Final Interim Policy Guidance,” in *Final Interim Policy Guidance Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant Program*, pp. 4-6, (2016). [https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FAST\\_Updated\\_Interim\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_June%202016.pdf](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/FAST_Updated_Interim_Policy_Guidance_June%202016.pdf).

Table 1: BRT Projects that Entered Project Development or Received Construction Grants (FY 2016-22)

<u>Location</u>	<u>BRT Project</u>	<u>Project Development</u>	<u>Construction Grant</u>	<u>Status</u>
San Francisco	Van Ness	<a href="#">2007</a>	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Columbus	Cleveland Avenue	<a href="#">2013</a>	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
El Paso	Montana Corridor	<a href="#">2013</a>	<a href="#">2020</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Utah County	Provo-Orem	<a href="#">2013</a>	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Albuquerque	<del>Albuquerque</del> Rapid Transit	<a href="#">2014</a>	<a href="#">2018</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Everett	Swift II (Green Line)	<a href="#">2014</a>	<a href="#">2018</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Minneapolis	Orange Line	<a href="#">2014</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Reno	Virginia Street	<a href="#">2014</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Albany	River Corridor	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2020</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Grand Rapids	Laker Line	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Indianapolis	Red Line	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2018</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Jacksonville	First Coast Flyer Southwest	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Kansas City	Prospect MAX	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2018</a>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
Portland	Division Transit	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Spokane	Central City Line	<a href="#">2015</a>	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Chapel Hill	North-South	<a href="#">2016</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Flagstaff	Transit Spine	<a href="#">2016</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Milwaukee	East West	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">2020</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Seattle	Madison Street	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">2021</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
St. Petersburg	Central Avenue	<a href="#">2016</a>	<a href="#">2020</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Indianapolis	Purple Line	<a href="#">2017</a>	<a href="#">2021</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Ogden	Ogden-Weber State	<a href="#">2017</a>	<a href="#">2021</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Pittsburgh	Downtown-Uptown-Oakland-East End	<a href="#">2017</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Seattle	Roosevelt (J-Line)	<a href="#">2017</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Tacoma	Pacific Avenue/SR 7	<a href="#">2018</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Miami	South Corridor	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">2020</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Raleigh	Wake Bus Rapid Transit	<a href="#">2019</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>
Seattle	K-Line	<a href="#">2019</a>		<a href="#">Paused</a>
Vancouver	Mill Plain	<a href="#">2019</a>	<a href="#">2021</a>	<a href="#">Under Construction</a>
Waco	<del>Waco</del> Rapid Transit	<a href="#">2019</a>		<a href="#">Project Development</a>

Source: Federal Transit Administration, "Annual Report on Funding Recommendations," *Report of the Secretary of Transportation to the United States Congress*, (Fiscal Years 2016-2022). <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/annual-report-funding-recommendations>.



Getting to BRT: An Implementation Guide for U.S. Cities

**CASE STUDY: ALBUQUERQUE RAPID TRANSIT (ART) BRT REINVENTING ROUTE 66**

- **Project implementation spanning two mayoral and federal administrations.** There was a push to launch the BRT before the end of Mayor Berry's second term, so the City held a soft launch before the electric buses were fully tested and ready. A mayoral transition and corresponding change in some project staff introduced some project **delays**. Likewise, the ART implementation spanned two federal administrations, which may have impacted the efficiency of federal funding cycles.

FEB 2014	FTA approves Albuquerque BRT for Small Starts project development phase
FEB 2016	FEBRUARY 9, FTA recommends \$69 million Small Starts grant for the project, which is included in President Obama's FY17 budget proposal. FEBRUARY 10, first lawsuit filed. Project now estimated to cost \$119 million. Central Avenue businesses begin displaying project opposition signs. FEBRUARY 26, a public meeting devolves into shouting as opponents of the project are increasingly concerned about the loss of travel lanes and impacts on businesses. <sup>14</sup>
MAR 2016	City Council votes 7-2 to authorize acceptance of nearly \$70 million in federal funding. Small Starts grant not yet approved, but City officials confident they'll get it because Obama included it in his budget recommendation.
AUG 2016	U.S. 10th Court of Appeals issues a temporary injunction, putting preconstruction on hold, and then lifts the injunction several weeks later, allowing construction to proceed
SEP 2017	In his final State of the City address, Mayor Berry says ART is 80% complete and ahead of schedule.
DEC 2017	Mayor Tim Keller takes office. Keller tells community leaders FTA funding has not yet materialized and begins to hint at problems with ART.
JAN 2018	Mayor Keller holds press conference to reveal significant problems with ART electric buses and offers no prediction on when operations will start.

**ART project 'a bit of a lemon,' mayor says as problems mount**

BY MARTIN SALAZAR / JOURNAL CITY EDITOR  
 PUBLISHED: TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018 AT 3:07PM  
 UPDATED: TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018 AT 10:07PM

The city has been banking on \$75 million from the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Program for the project, but that funding agreement has not yet been signed.

AUG 2018	FTA announces \$75 million grant agreement with ABQ RDL.
NOV 2018	The City cancels the electric bus procurement contract with BYD and returns the 15 buses BYD had delivered. The City orders 20 clean diesel buses from New Flyer.

**ART buses to open in Albuquerque on Nov. 30**

Rides will be free through the end of 2019 to help promote the salvaged project that was labeled a "bit of a lemon."

Walter Warrick Libman

Nov. 11, 2018



The city of Albuquerque, N.M., will start service on two ABQ Ride ART lines Nov. 30, delivering a **severely delayed** project that could have been scrapped due to any number of factors, but that will now provide improved service to the city's west side.

"When we took responsibility for fixing this project, we recognized it was a little bit of a lemon. We've worked tirelessly to get it done right," said Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. "In the process, we recovered \$75 million for local taxpayers, rebuilt non-functional or inaccessible platforms and secured a full fleet of 20 buses that would actually work in our system. Today, we're turning the page and encouraging folks to come ride Albuquerque Rapid Transit on Small Business Saturday."

## Portland

### Division transit project likely delayed due to budget shortfall

Updated May 17, 2019, 12:09 p.m. | Published Jan. 29, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Elliot Njus | The Oregonian/OregonLive

A proposal to run a high-capacity express line bus along Southeast Division Street between Gresham and Portland faces a \$34 million shortfall, and resolving it could **delay the project by a year.**

TriMet officials say they can handle the shortfall without scaling back the project's scope or level of service. But a three-month "recalibration" would put the project out of consideration for federal funding this year, pushing opening day back to 2022 at the earliest.

"It certainly represents a time-out," said Steve Witter, TriMet's executive director of capital projects.

Planners are trying to squeeze the new line into a \$175 million budget, the limit for a Federal Transit Administration program that expected to foot half the bill. (TriMet's MAX Orange Line, in comparison, cost \$1.49 billion.)

But the bill has grown to \$189 million, mostly due to unexpected costs only tangentially related to the project, such as the replacement of traffic signals hung from cables rather than steel poles.

## Minneapolis

### Despite support from cities and suburbs, Orange Line needs to secure funding

Despite bipartisan backing, project faces a murky future.

By Janet Moore Star Tribune | AUGUST 13, 2016 -- 12:52PM

The \$150.7 million project nevertheless faces a murky future, and a pressing deadline: Metropolitan Council officials must submit an application to the Federal Transit Administration by Sept. 2 for the project to be considered for funding in next year's federal budget.

About \$45 million was expected to come from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), which levies a quarter-cent sales tax for transit in the metro area. But last month Dakota County voted to leave the board, causing hard feelings among members from other counties. Now there's some question whether CTIB funding for the Orange Line will be forthcoming.

### Orange Line Project Secures \$74M Federal Grant

By Amanda Ostuni  
November 28, 2018

**TWIN CITIES  
BUSINESS**

The federal grant comes after more than two years of funding acquired in fits and starts, which has put the project in a constant state of jeopardy since it was conceived.

## Seattle

### Metro revises RapidRide program schedule

Date: December 21, 2020  
Author: Torie Rysning,  
King County Metro

In response to the budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, King County and the County Council have reassessed the RapidRide lines that will launch in the coming years. Some projects within the RapidRide program will pause design or adjust investments and will no longer launch as previously planned.

The RapidRide G, H, I, J, K, and R Lines were all originally slated to launch by 2027. The RapidRide G, H, I, and J lines will continue to be built with slight changes to schedule and investments. The RapidRide K and R lines will be paused until additional funding is available.

#### RapidRide K Line (Project paused)

The RapidRide K Line will be paused once it completes its remaining conceptual design work. When additional funding is secured, and the project is able to resume, Metro will notify all project stakeholders and continue the engagement process around design for the route alignment, station locations, and access and safety improvements.

## Milwaukee

### County Expects Key BRT Grant Soon

Construction could begin by spring 2021.

By Graham Kilmer - Dec 3rd, 2020 04:33 pm

After years of planning and delays, Milwaukee County officials are expecting to finalize a critical grant agreement with the federal government for the East-West Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT) this month.

In summer 2019, planners expected to finalize a grant agreement by the end of the year and start construction in spring 2020. But delays in the grant process **delayed the project by a year.** And now construction is expected to begin in spring 2021. With revenue service beginning in fall 2022.

As Urban Milwaukee has reported, delays have been caused by mismanagement of the grant program at the FTA. For example, the agency was failing to communicate grant criteria and, in some cases, changing project requirements after they had already been met, leaving planners in the dark as to how they would secure this grant pivotal to the project.

An investigation of the Capital Improvements Grant (CIG) program — of which the Small Starts program is a part — by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, found the FTA caused project delays and cost overruns throughout the country.

**URBAN  
MILWAUKEE**

**From:** jessicaliebl@hotmail.com <jessicaliebl@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Monroe Street Library

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Jessica Richards  
**Address:** 1803 Keyes Ave, Madison, WI 53711  
**Phone:** 414-759-8634  
**Email:** [jessicaliebl@hotmail.com](mailto:jessicaliebl@hotmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Hello-

My family and I just wanted to voice our support for the Monroe Street Library to be open at least 5 days a week and go back to a more normal schedule.

Although the library is small, we use it almost 2 times per week and probably check out over 50 books a week between all of us. It is a walkable resource that myself and my family enjoy and one of the many reasons we moved to this neighborhood.

Jessica, Kyle, Sophia and Sydney Richards

**From:** Deborah Elsas <deborahelsas@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:26 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Amendment 11 Operating Budget Increase funding for Cares

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders,

Please fund Cares to the extent possible including by shifting funds from the police since this program is importantly relieving the police of some of their duties.

Thank you

Deb Elsas

**From:** Carol Schroeder <monroestreet@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:29 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In Support of the Monroe Street Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am thrilled that the Madison Public Library, and the MPL board, have endorsed a solution that will restore the Monroe Street Library to being open five days a week in 2022 without having any impact on the city budget. I understand that the MPL has a reserve fund that can be used in situations such as this one in which library services are restricted. It is my hope that this is a one-time use of the reserve fund, and that the small amount needed to keep the Monroe Street Library open 5 days a week (just \$70,000) will be included in the operating budget for 2023.

Last year when the MPL board was forced to reduce Monroe Street's hours to three days a week for 2021 in order to make the budget work, it was stated that its goal was to make the Monroe St. Library fully viable again in 2022, and I am hopeful that this proposal will make this goal achievable.

I've been chair of the Monroe Street Library League for over 35 years, and of the Monroe Street Merchants Association for some 45 years. In my mind the two organizations share the same goals: creating a walkable urban neighborhood with a high quality of life for children, adults and seniors. Having access to a public library helps make the Monroe Street area livable, and contributes to making our mix of small, locally owned businesses viable.

The Monroe Street Library League is eager to support the branch, and our volunteers have continued to raise funds for materials used throughout the MPL system, as well as most of the programs and furnishings for our branch. We are unable, however, to host any programming with the library open so few hours a week. Supervising Librarian Ching Wong recent wrote: "I agree with Orange's statements of the limited opportunities for programming due the limited hours and future funding. If and when the library hours are restored, Monroe Street Library staff and I will look forward to your full support in funding any collection and programming endeavors."

I could go on at great length about the reasons why the Monroe Street Library should be open five days a week instead of just three, but I hope that my actions over the past 35 years speak to my passion for this branch and the importance of libraries in general. Our brand is a lively and well-loved library, even though patrons are limited to just Tuesday, Friday or Saturday. Let's hope that in 2022 they will have access five days a week!

All my best,  
Carol "Orange" Schroeder

A few facts for your consideration:

- Monroe Street Library is the sole library in the Madison system with only three days of service.

- A recent week-long survey showed this library recently received more visits per day than Goodman South Madison, Hawthorne, or Lakeview libraries, despite its small size. It also saw more library materials checked out per month than Goodman South Madison despite being open less than half the hours in May, June and July of 2022.

- Library Board and staff have received many comments from library visitors in support of expanded service hours; the Board received over 80 comments in 2020 in support of the library.

- Library Board and staff have received considerable feedback from seniors and older caregivers of neighborhood children that the walkability of the Monroe Street Library is important to them and they are unable to easily visit other libraries by car.

- \$70,000 in operating funding would restore a .7 FTE Library Assistant and 20 hours per week of Library Page time, allowing sufficient staffing for 16 additional service hours per week. Due to staffing/hiring considerations, adding one day of service is not a viable option – we cannot hire a new position to work one day.

- The city of Madison owns the Monroe Street Library building and pays utilities and maintenance on it 365 days of the year. As small business owners, we recognize that it doesn't make sense to use that facility less than 150 days per annum.

- Monroe Street is a pedestrian-friendly area with many children and seniors walking to our schools shops, and restaurants. Being able to visit a library without having to go by car helps the city meet its goals of less dependence on cars.

Monroe Street Merchants Association  
c/o Orange Tree Imports  
1721 Monroe Street  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Marybeth McGinnis <marybethmcginnis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Strongly against the anti-BRT amendment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am speaking strongly against the proposed amendment requiring council approval for changes to BRT/Network Redesign and to express my dismay towards Alders Verveer, Abbas, Carter, Harrington-McKinney, and Myadze.

First and foremost, this amendment communicates to the city and to our staff that their expertise and knowledge is not valued, and that it is especially not valued over the whining of a few businesses. I take the bus (and my bike) to State Street on a regular basis from my Atwood neighborhood. I believe the State Street routing is the best route for transit riders and the best route for *businesses*. It is easy to say that you can "just" walk a few extra blocks, but in the winter with icy sidewalks, or for those with disabilities, or for anyone who is then forced to cross high-traffic and more dangerous roads, it is not so easy.

Our staff deserve to be recognized as experts, in conjunction with the community of bus riders. Actions like this amendment threaten our city's ability to retain the first-class staff we currently have.

In particular, I am dismayed that Alder Verveer believes he has a legitimate opinion to bring to the table regarding effective public transit. Alder Verveer is my former alder; he was also a main obstruction to making West Washington safe for vulnerable road users and for a dedicated bus lane. Because of his insistence that we keep a few street parking spots (in one of the densest districts in town, with a substantial number of students and others who do not own cars), we have a substandard bus-bike lane, which will cause conflicts for cyclists and will slow down buses. Alder Verveer has proven himself to not be knowledgeable about effective transit and its users, and I urge him and others to instead listen to our staff and the people in this city who depend upon these systems.

For those who aren't sure - and for those who *again* have to stand resolute against this constant anti-transit sentiment - I will provide you with the words of my grandfather. Along with a few others, he revitalized his small Arkansas downtown which had been destroyed by the presence of a local Walmart. He led years of tense meetings, made relationships, and persevered to create a downtown booming with new businesses, community events, and life. I will paraphrase him: "A lot of people whined about this, but who cares. All of those people are here now and like it."

If you stop BRT now, we will likely lose it. Stop being the obstructionists that my grandfather referred to, and start building a vision with your residents. This is a vision where it is easy to grab a bus, where the busses are frequent, where more of your residents can save their money by reducing the cars they own, where our workers can depend on transit rather than have to pour money into fixing their beater cars. Nothing will be perfect, but we cannot delay this and risk losing funding.

Sincerely,  
Marybeth McGinnis  
157 Ohio Avenue  
[marybethmcginnis@gmail.com](mailto:marybethmcginnis@gmail.com)

From: Owen Zinkgraf <ozinkgraf@wisc.edu>  
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 8:51 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: BRT Delay

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I read an article in the Wisconsin State Journal titled “City Council members seek alternatives to BRT on Capitol Square and State Street.” I was disappointed to read that the City Council was considering delaying BRT. I support the current proposed route and am worried that delay may jeopardize the project. I’m hoping that the city can continue to move forward with BRT. The project is too important to delay.

Best,  
Owen Zinkgraf

**From:** brian48johnson@hotmail.com <brian48johnson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] CARES funding

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Brian Johnson  
**Address:** 5505 Tolman Ter, Madison, WI 53711-3569  
**Email:** [brian48johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:brian48johnson@hotmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Mayor and Alders-

I'm writing in opposition to Alder Furman's proposal to provide 82,000.00 in funding for CARES from the MPD budget. The last place we should be looking to take more from is the already under resourced police budget. It's really head scratching that this CARES funding is being requested when the CARES team says it doesn't need the funding right now and it makes me wonder just how fiscally responsible you all are with our tax dollars.

If you need to look for additional funding for anything, look at taking it from the Citizens Police Oversight Board. I believe this board is budgeted at 450,000.00 a year to operate. This controversial board was created to address a problem that really doesn't seem to exist - rampant police misconduct and distrust of police by Madison citizens. For those rare occasions when police procedure or officer conduct or citizen concerns need to be investigated, we already have funded boards Police and Fire commission and Public Safety Review Committee in place that should be able to deal with these types of issues.

The Citizens Police Oversight Board really is a "solution" in search of a problem, when there is a clear need to address a real problem that impacts Madison citizens of all races, creeds, socio-economic standing and sexual orientation, and that's stopping criminals committing crime in our streets right now.

Can CARES be part of the solution? Sure, but when the CARES team say they don't need the extra funding right now, do the responsible thing and leave the MPD budget alone or better yet - use the budget for the oversight board to help offset our under resourced police force.

Regardless, don't raid the MPD budget for CARES

Respectfully,

Brian Johnson

From: Pat Fish <patfi@charter.net>  
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:05 AM  
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Madison public safety

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

say no to any MPD budget cuts, add money for additional officers and officer wellness.

N

Thanks

\*\*\*SHARED FROM NEXTDOOR\*\*\*

Madison Area Safety Alliance

# MPD Budget Basics

Someone on a Nextdoor post was questioning how budget cuts can affect the police department when each year their budget goes up. So I thought I would copy and paste my answer here to give you an idea of where MPD's budget stands this year:

MPD's budget goes up from year to year (like any city budget or company budget with enough employees that some are coming due for wage and/or benefit increases. Or for grants started with state or federal dollars, now being paid for by the department or agency). This is normal and will happen forever. MPD is the largest department in the City with the most employees.

So the start of the budget season each year is the "cost to continue" amount. This is the amount to continue current services and operations with the current staffing.

The 5% exercise, which obviously makes no sense to do across the board because not every department is the same (some have a few people, MPD has around 600 employees), some had fewer expenses in a covid year, while some (like MPD) had more (tons of overtime). MPD officers did not have the luxury of working at home during a pandemic. It also creates a retention issue when the Chief has to publicly delineate what a 5% cut would look like. The people in those roles first on the chopping block suddenly have job security concerns, especially when it occurs each year.

So the current 2021 budget year we're in started at that cost-to-continue level, just keeping current services as they are. Meanwhile, the department was already understaffed (an outside study in 2019 said they should hire 18 more officers, but there was no money to do so). From there, the Common Council cut \$1,250,000.00 from MPD's budget. The \$1 million cut was balanced by not filling vacant positions that came with high attrition and requiring commissioned officers to take 4 furlough days, 1 in each quarter. This staffing shortage costs the city a lot through overtime expenses. MPD's budgeted overtime last year was used up in the second quarter.

The additional \$250,000.00 cut made through a budget amendment came by capping the next year's recruit size (the only way MPD can hire new officers). Last year's high attrition was unable to be recouped due to that cap and a shrinking applicant pool because this is a difficult season for policing.

So going into this 2022 budget season, once again, as always we have a slightly higher cost-to-continue starting point (to account for raises and grants coming due, but no increase in staffing, resources, or services).

\*\*\*This year, Alders wrote amendments that would have taken a total of \$795,000.00 from MPD and put it toward the new CARES (Crisis Alternative Response Emergency Services) team directed toward taking low-level, non-violent/ no weapons mental health calls for service. That 2- person team started taking calls on Sept. 1 and since then has averaged one 911 call per day. Chief Davis of the Fire Department (which houses CARES) said at the Finance Committee meeting that additional funding at this time is premature and unneeded and that they'd be in a better position to know what they need a year from now. Therefore the 3 amendments failed, two of them unanimously. \*\*\*

But now\*\*\* Alder Furman\*\*\* in the 19th District is moving ahead with another amendment that would take \$82,000 from MPD's budget for the CARES team. I have asked him if he discussed that with Chief Davis, but so far no response. This amount is tied to the Capital budget and appears to be an ongoing expense carried over from year to year, so it's a bit confusing.

At any rate, MPD is severely understaffed while the city grows at a fast pace and prepares to take in the majority of the Town of Madison residents next year, adding about 5,000 new residents to MPD's workload. The 8 officers currently budgeted to be added will not be enough, but it's better than nothing. Any cuts to MPD's operating budget will take away from those 8 officers, Chief Barnes made that clear at the Finance Committee meeting.

\*\*\*Because of the short staffing, the city is paying a ton of money in daily officer overtime which is required to just fill hard minimum staffing levels across the city. \*\*\*This is not optimal staffing, but minimal staffing. They are experiencing record attrition this year in retirements and resignations. Patrol officers are struggling to respond to the number of calls for service at these levels. Going from call to call leaves very little time for proactive, problem-solving policing and it's why Chief Barnes just cut 3 of the 6 Community Policing Teams and put them back into straight patrol. This means a loss of services to the City and a drop in proactive policing and strategic engagement, but something had to stop the bleeding. Attrition is off the charts as officers are burning out.

In case you think the City is overflowing with police on our streets, attached is a photo with the minimum staffing levels on each shift, which MPD is struggling daily to fill. You can see they are broken out by the district, and then totaled at the end.

When departments are asked to delineate a 5% cut it insinuates all things are equal. Kristen suggests the police department is waging some kind of public fear-mongering war. As much as I pay attention to policing in Madison, I have not seen that. But they are struggling with a lack of staffing to do what the City is asking them to do and what residents expect them to do. This new, younger workforce values time off, family time, and vacation days on average more than working a ton of overtime. They will leave the job at some point when their ability to keep adding mandatory overtime as a regular job requirement is not sustainable, and many are leaving. Officers get one pass per YEAR on ordered overtime. At some point, you end up with the police department that nobody wants: Police officers who only have time for reactive policing, never able to get to the heart of the issues, but just rushing from call to call, working too much overtime for quality self-care, overworked and ready to snap. I don't think that is what residents want. That doesn't help anything and makes policing more dangerous to everyone. If we want to keep a

good police department in our City, we need to concern ourselves with Officer health and wellness and provide for the needs a good police department has or we will end up with what no one wants.

Crime going up is not the driver of this problem, lack of staffing is. It's why every single cut MPD faces directly affect personnel. 88% of the budget goes toward personnel costs. There are no cuts left to be made to the 12% of non-personnel expenses.

\*\*Please consider opposing any cuts made to the budget, including Alder Furman's amendment to take \$82,000 from MPD to give to the CARES team, who currently has said it doesn't need the funding this year. \*\*

We need more officers and shouldn't feel lucky because a 5% cut was not required. Or miffed that MPD didn't "do its part " A 5% cut would have lost us 36 more officers and thrown MPD into a major crisis, affecting the safety of the whole City.

If you want a healthy police department and a safer City, send a message to the Mayor and Alders asking them to say no to any MPD budget cuts and asking them to add money for additional officers and officer wellness.

[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)

[Allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Allalders@cityofmadison.com)

And let Alder Furman know that CARES doesn't need \$82,000 from the police department right now:

[District19@cityofmadison.com](mailto:District19@cityofmadison.com)

**From:** Steve Veazie <steveveazie4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:25 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Item 1 of 2022 Executive Capital Budget - Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I want to communicate my strong support for Alder Abbas' Amendment 15. I am concerned about pedestrian safety on State Street. I don't understand the Mayor's refusal to look at alternatives. State Street should be preserved as a pedestrian first corridor - not a fast bus route. Just ask the University of Illinois, which prioritized bus traffic through crowded campus streets, directly leading to 2 pedestrian deaths from bus accidents. For once, I would like to see city planners giving priority to pedestrian use and enjoyment of State Street - not just how to move a high volume of buses through that area quickly.  
Steve Veazie 317 S Owen Dr. Madison WI 53705

**From:** Dan Fitch <dgfitch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT amendment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hey alderfolks, putting a pause on BRT via budget amendment is bad. Please don't put the project in jeopardy.

Our city needs sustainable and convenient public transit that goes to and through Capital Square and State Street areas. We need to accelerate plans for shared transit, over the worries of businesses. We need to plan for a city with less cars, and not trade BRT plans for some hypothetical pedestrian utopia. As a non-car-owner myself, I look forward to fast bus transit all over the city someday.

If you want a Madison for everyone, we need better public transit. Please invest in that, and don't block the plans to put the whole project in limbo.

Thanks for your work figuring this all out,  
Dan Fitch

**From:** Sandi Reinardy <sandi@reinardy.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support CARES Expansion

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to ask that all of you support Operating Budget Amendment #11 and Capital Budget Amendment #8, to provide funding to expand the CARES program in 2022.

I am not writing to ask that you make any quick moves to defund the police. I am asking that you acknowledge the fact that in this country – and in our community – we have come to rely way too heavily on the police force to respond to a wide variety of crisis situations, and we live in a time that demands and allows for more appropriate and complex responses. I'm asking that you take real steps to expand our City's ability to respond to crisis situations with the appropriate tools, not with a single way of doing things.

I am making this request based not only on the fact that there is evidence from the CAHOOTS program that programs like this can be effective, but also on three specific personal experiences:

- I am a volunteer leader of Nehemiah's Court Observer program. (To be clear, I am writing this letter as an individual, and not representing Nehemiah's positions in any formal way. What I write is based on my experiences as a volunteer.) We train individuals with little prior exposure to our court system to observe court hearings to see whether that aspect of our criminal legal system is functioning the way we might hope. One of the most frequent reactions we get from new observers is shock and dismay about what seems to be a lack of adequate mental health resources for people who are facing charges. People regularly note that the individuals they see seem much more in need of help than criminal punishment.
- I am currently a social work intern at Mendota Mental Health Institute. I work in a minimum security unit, with men who's conditions are currently well managed. I have long been familiar with academic information about severe and persistent mental illness. But in just two short months, I have had the opportunity to see what that looks like up close and in person and here is what I've learned: I cannot fathom a situation with a person experiencing acute symptoms of a mental illness that would be made better by police intervention. I mean no disrespect to police officers when I write that. I mean that in the best scenarios it can be difficult to understand and respond to the needs of a person experiencing a mental health crisis and the people I've seen do it best have years of training and full-time experience. My understanding of police training is that it couldn't possibly equip them with the tools and experience to regularly lead people in that situation to the best outcomes. It is asking too much of our police officers, who specialize in a different set of skills.
- Finally, I lost a young family member to suicide who had several police interactions while experiencing mental health crises and his response was always panic, fear, and an escalation of disorderly behavior. Those responses intensified with each subsequent interaction. I am not suggesting his suicide was a result of these interactions, but I do believe they are among a long

list of ways in which our systems failed to help him get better. I have another family member who has struggled deeply with serious mental illness for years and there have been numerous times when we were not sure whether she was okay or was considering or had already attempted suicide. Our only option on many of those occasions was to request a wellness check via 911. This is an excruciating decision. I do not believe there is any reason to send armed officers to wellness checks, but families – regardless of their access to financial or social resources – sometimes have no other choice. I believe it would make a world of difference if these situations were handled by trained crisis intervention specialists, like those on the CARES team.

I would like you, as alders, and by extension our city, to acknowledge that we can address community crisis needs with a variety of tools and work to make sure those tools are available to as many people as possible, as soon as possible.

I know you have difficult budget decisions to make, and I don't envy you for having to make these decisions. Operating Budget Amendment #11 represents a tiny part of the policing budget, that will not go nearly far enough to meet the community need, but it can be progress, it can be step toward a healthier community. And it may save lives.

Please support Operating Budget Amendment #11 and Capital Budget Amendment #8.

Thank you.  
Sandi Reinardy  
5328 Lake Mendota Drive  
Madison, WI 53705

**From:** CHASE ZACHARY CUNNIFF <ccunniff2@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 5:13 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Bus Rapid Transit

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison alders,

I am a rider of Metro transit and downtown resident. I'm disappointed to learn about the proposed amendment to the city budget which will delay BRT. BRT will benefit Madison immensely, and the delay may put the entire project at risk. I am hoping that the city can continue move forward with the project. I encourage you to reject the proposed amendment to the budget.

Best,  
Chase Cunniff

**From:** Beth Sluys <sluysb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT - Man Alive, we want 7.5

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear President Abbas, Alder Myadze and Alders:

Good morning! Imagine my surprise in reading the article in the paper about the BRT and the following news:

***Madison's coming makeover of Metro Transit — perhaps the biggest ever — promises a \$166 million backbone of bus rapid transit that will focus service in high-density corridors, reduce service in other areas, eliminate transfer points and reduce traffic lanes on some city thoroughfares.***

Now correct me if I am wrong, but we are in the midst of a NETWORK REDESIGN that is not even half way completed, and the very decisions that we are trying to determine, seemingly have already been decided. No transfer stations (ridership option) reducing service (we already have endured this with the removal of faster routes from the Northside), and the possible re-routing of buses from the high density corridor of apartments along Northport for a route up Troy Drive....how are these decisions being made? Not with input from local residents who actually ride the buses. Public listening sessions and presentations do not constitute the type of work group effort that is required to ensure the routes reflect the users and how they travel.

There is a timeline provided by city staff and the consultants that have been hired to work with the city and residents to determine the best network possible for our city transportation system. Not having been done in 20 years or more. Page 47 of the attached document about the Network Redesign, shows the timeline for the redesign work that lies ahead.

I think we need to wait until we know that the federal grant has been awarded with certainty, as it will fund the bulk of the BRT E/W only. Then what? Another grant to fund the N/S routes? This feels unjust. We like to talk about equity and yet there has been zero that is equitable about this BRT process as it relates to the N/S routes, home to may low income BIPOC families that rely solely on public transportation.

If 7.5 minute route pick ups is good for the E/W route, then it is good for the N/S route. I don't believe the north and south side bus riders have ever experienced an every 15 minute route to anywhere!

The N/S route has never been discussed in terms of learning about the transit desires of area residents, who rely heavily on the bus system. The Northside was

determined to be above average in numbers of assisted income households. It takes over an hour to get to the downtown from some areas of Madison. A trip that should take 15 minutes!

Please take the time to allow the consultants you have hired, to produce their report, and present the findings. Spring of 2022 is not far away!

We all want an innovative transportation system. One that includes great buses, pedestrian and bike paths that are well connected and safe, and a local train system.

Thank you for listening and taking action.

Beth Sluys  
District 18  
Neighbor to District 12



TransitNetworkRedes  
ign\_Alternatives\_2021

From: Theodora Zehner <theodora.zehner@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 11:48 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: I support Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I support Amendment 15. I hope you will, too. While I favor the BRT, I do not favor buses on State Street. State Street should be a pedestrian mall.

Theodora Zehner  
406 West Shore Dr  
Madison, WI 53715

**From:** Custer, Betty <Betty.Custer@lfg.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 2:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Capital Budget and amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I write you all, many of whom I know personally and some of whom I do not know, because I feel so strongly that you as a Council need to approve amendment 15 to the Capital Budget which gives the City Council, and not the Mayor nor Transportation, the authority to approve the final siting of the BRT terminals, especially with regard to State Street.

In all my years of watching government, supporting many of you in your efforts to make Madison better and in all my attendance at meetings specific especially to Overture, I have never found a process this significant to be so mangled in the manner in which key stakeholders were not involved.

The Mayor and her administration quote chapter and verse about all of the public meetings that were held regarding BRT. I do not refute those facts, but ask you to consider that these meetings, almost all virtually held and in the middle of a pandemic, did NOT do justice to the democratic process. Key stakeholders to the welfare of Downtown, the business and building owners, have been going through struggles for their economic lives, and no specific effort was made to single them out as a group until this spring.

When they last were singled out earlier in the process they virtually unanimously voted for the outer ring as preferred siting for BRT terminals. As soon as the mayor's rejection of that opinion became known this spring, they have been attending forums and meetings. The virtual nature has made these extremely unsatisfactory. Instead of the usual groundswell in public attendance at important in person meetings, these virtual meetings have given face only to the administrative presence and Written Q and A as the only alternative to attendees wishing to voice dissent. In the last one I attended for hours the almost 100 questions were whittled down by the facilitator, leaving out key portions, and skipping whole questions that she deemed had one or two similar words or phrases similar to a previously partially answered query.

I am not a downtown business owner, although I own my own business. I am an advocate of Downtown through DMI, my leadership role on the Board at Overture and my friendship with clients and others who are business owners downtown. But I also am a lifelong citizen with a long love affair with State Street from the days I attended Central High near the top of the street to the days at the UW near the bottom, and all the years in between and since, shopping, dining, and attending performances and gallery viewing.

The Mayor and her staff are trying to portray those fighting terminals on State St as having motives of keeping bus ridership types of people away from their businesses. The statement is both absurd and an affront to all those who have put their lives into these businesses.....many of whom are women, varying ethnicities, and hardly the elite upper white class they are portrayed to be. It is also an assault on the integrity of those of us who have spent years making equity and justice hallmarks of institutions like Overture and MMOCA.

As I finished my third year as Overture board chair a year ago I formed a committee to work on revitalizing State Street, reimagining it with even more diversity and supporting the struggling owners. I then joined committees through DMI ago do the same. The enthusiasm the greater public expressed for even the consideration of a pedestrian mall made us all feel that our love of this iconic street was widely shared. We are not against BRT. We want to reverse climate change. We want sensible public transportation. We simply acknowledge that Madison can have those things and still keep large bus terminals from impeding pedestrian views and pleasures.

We ask that The City Council take this step to make this process a true reflection of civic responsibility for those who are working on keeping and improving this iconic street for many greater days ahead.

Betty Harris Custer  
Lifelong Madisonian  
50 year business owner  
Civic leader

**From:** jamesgisaac@gmail.com <jamesgisaac@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Support Budget Request for More Police

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** James Isaac  
**Address:** 4006 Mandan Crescent, Madison, WI 53711  
**Email:** [jamesgisaac@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgisaac@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Dear Alders,

I hope this finds each of you and your families healthy.

Please support that aspect of the mayor's proposed city budget that includes eight additional police officers in light of the merger of the town of Madison into the city of Madison. Ideally, this common council would go further and add back the four MPD officers that the mayor's budget cut last year. However, at a bare minimum, this council should support the common sense addition of the eight new officers that the mayor has proposed and that Chief Barnes has requested.

As each of you knows all too well, Madison continues to suffer from an extraordinary wave of violent crime. From 2019 to 2020, shots fired incidents skyrocketed from 144 to 250. Between those two years, homicides nearly tripled. Although 2021 is not yet over, as of the end of September, the numbers for this year have already eclipsed 2019 in just nine months. This is unacceptable. The violent crime hurts everyone and everything in this city, but it hurts our most vulnerable communities and neighborhoods the most.

The Madison Police Department is not the problem - indeed, the Madison Police Department will need to be a large part of the solution to our violent crime epidemic. In a nod to common sense, voters last week in other metropolitan areas - from Minneapolis to New York City to Buffalo - all rejected defund-the-police policies and candidates and instead voted for candidates who rightly viewed their cities' police forces as a big part of the solution to their own runaway crime rates. Madison's common council should do the same: please prioritize the real-world safety of our city's residents over ideology.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the city's residents.

Sincerely,

James Isaac

From: Ronnie Hess <rlhess@wisc.edu>  
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:22 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: My thoughts on Alder Abbas' Amendment 15 to the Capital Budget

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Dear Alders,

I strongly support Alder Abbas' amendment 15 on the capital budget. I'm a native New Yorker and I love "select" or express buses. I've seen how well they function across a City. But they don't run on every avenue. State Street is not a Second or Fifth Avenue. It's a delicate space, created to be small, and with a particular character that needs to be defended and protected. A BRT there would completely change the nature of the street.

All best,  
Ronnie Hess (she, her, hers)  
Madison, WI

From: Ronnie Hess <rlhess@wisc.edu>  
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:28 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Thoughts on possible amendment on Monroe Street Library expanded funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I understand Alder Evers will propose an amendment Tuesday to the Operating Budget making it possible to fund the Monroe Street Public Library for five days a week. I would strongly support this amendment.

I've been outspoken on this issue over the years whenever the Monroe Street branch seemed threatened. In the 30+ years I have lived in either the Regent or Vilas neighborhoods I have seen how important the Monroe Street branch has been to the area's community life. Please vote to make it financially possible to restore the library's hours, especially given the fact that the Library Board has endorsed this proposal.

All best,  
Ronnie Hess (she, her, hers)  
Madison, WI

**From:** pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com <pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Public Comment on Agenda Item #67001

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Adam Pagenkopf  
**Address:** 431 Cantwell Ct #2, Madison, WI 53703  
**Phone:** 262-510-8747  
**Email:** [pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com](mailto:pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I urge the Council to reject a proposed amendment that is likely to have the effect of killing Bus Rapid Transit BRT and Network Redesign. This amendment sets a disturbing precedent where a small group of business owners and their lobby groups can derail years of regular public process at the 11th hour by introducing a budget amendment allowing for 4 days of public comment after 9 years of planning.

Our current transportation system is inequitable and insufficient. The last major reworking was completed 25 years ago in the 1990s, resulting in an inefficient system revolving around 6 transfer points and 50+ bus routes. Riders from disadvantaged groups take significantly longer to get to their destination, having to take circuitous routes and lengthy transfers even to go short distances. BRT and Network Redesign will significantly increase access to jobs, groceries, childcare, and much more for Madisonians who rely on the bus for transportation.

Much of the opposition to BRT is centered around 11 blocks of the route on Upper State Street and Capitol Square. These streets have been served by public transportation for over 100 years, from horse-drawn streetcars in the mid-1800s, to electric streetcars in the 1890s, to buses from the 1930s through today. Transit has always been here because the State St/Square route puts stops closer to popular destinations and puts transfers closer together

A small group of business owners opposes the downtown route in favor of a hypothetical plan to create a pedestrian promenade on upper State Street and Capitol Square. There is no concrete plan to make the square a pedestrian or transit mall. If such a pedestrianization plan does materialize, there will be many considerations and engineering changes. Re-routing can be addressed then. Some additional investment may be required, but BRT is still a bus at the end of the day. Such a plan would require years of planning and public input. I would love to see many one-way streets changed to 2-way, dedicated ROW for transit, and additional areas pedestrianized, but not at the expense of access to bus riders. To date, none of this planning has occurred.

Transit on Street and Capitol Square serves riders best with stations that are central, safe, and attractive and with the lowest travel times. This route will be the easiest to use for new and occasional riders. Detours will continue to be necessary ~10% of running time. The alternatives are much worse because

they take longer and put riders farther away from transfers and popular destinations 100% of the running time. These problems are particularly acute in the winter months when it is often cold, icy, and dark. Most detours occur from late spring to early fall when these issues are lessened.

Bus Rapid Transit has had over 9 years of public planning and comment since 2012, including an intensive public engagement period from October 2018 - March 2020, resulting in the Routing Reports in January of 2020 and the passage of the Locally Preferred Alternative LPA by the Common Council in March of 2020. A Revised LPA with the same route was passed by the Common Council in January of 2021. Some of the alders who present this week's amendment even voted in favor of the approved route eleven months ago and nearly two years ago.

This amendment proposes to halt the BRT process and introduce delays that could easily kill the project entirely. Completion of planning will likely be pushed into 2023/2024 when a new US Congress and a new Wisconsin Governor may be seated. In 2011, High-speed Rail between Madison and Milwaukee was killed by a new Wisconsin Governor.

The amendment circumvents years of public engagement through the ordinary process. The BRT route planning process has proceeded through the ordinary means of public engagement over the past 9 years. The Network Redesign process is ongoing and is currently planned to run from March 2021 - Summer 2022, with a Draft Plan being presented this winter. Difficult choices in Network Redesign are necessitated by an unchanged or decreased budget for Metro Transit operations, which is set by the Common Council.

The planned BRT route was decided on after years of public engagement and it is the best route for riders, the project, and the city. The status quo for Metro Transit is not acceptable, any change that includes BRT will bring significant benefits for riders.

Adam Pagenkopf  
He/Him/His  
[pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com](mailto:pagenkopf.adam@gmail.com)  
Cantwell Ct Unit 2, Madison WI  
262 510-8747

**From:** Andrew Lail <ajlail98@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 7:50 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT Support

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I just wanted to register my support for the BRT routing as stated in the current Locally Preferred Alternative. There is no need to continue to study the routing as proposed in Alder Abbas' amendment. I have been continually impressed by the high quality of information sessions and input opportunities from Metro staff over the past couple years, and I would hate to see their hard work delayed. This is a crucial project to get finished on time, given how transformative it could be for people getting around as the city develops rapidly.

The state street and capitol square route is simply the most logical and effective route, as well as the easiest for wayfinding. The routing will make it easy for visitors to find State Street and easy for locals to drop by as they ride the bus. One of the most exciting things about BRT is the hop-on, hop-off potential it creates. On my way home from work, I take the bus through State often. As much as I'd love to jump out, grab a quick coffee or buy a card for a friend, I stay on the bus because I know the next bus I need might not come for half an hour. If I knew a high frequency bus ran on State Street, it would create a lot of spontaneous trips for me.

I am fully in support of BRT as proposed currently. I truly believe this is a transformative moment for Madison and it would be heartbreaking to see it derailed.

Cheers,  
Andrew Lail  
406 Castle Place  
Madison

**From:** Mary Kateada <marykateada@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 9:12 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Cares team ongoing support!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

We are writing in strong support of the Cares team and in hopes that you all will pass **Operating Budget Amendment #11** and the **Capital Budget Amendment #8**. It is our understanding that they will provide the following funds going forward:

- **Operating Budget Amendment #11** - would shift \$82,000 from the Police budget to the CARES team to provide for 2 additional contracted crisis workers for 6 months. (Presumably, this would happen in the latter half of the year, so that the current team can continue to work out the processes and figure out how to best incorporate two additional workers.)
- **Capital Budget Amendment #8** – would authorize \$50,000 in capital funding to procure a vehicle for a second response team.

As a 67 year old, white female retiree and a 74 year old white male retiree living in our own home on the west side of Madison, we are not the least bit swayed or frightened by any *defunding the police* rhetoric. The Care team works side by side with the police and rightfully removes responsibilities from them, which should equate to a shifting of budget \$'s for them. There is no going back, there is only going forward. Please do not be afraid of paving the way and bringing needed change to our community.

Thank you for your consideration and you work on our behalf.

Mary Kateada  
Frank Schneeberger  
3429 Lucia Crest  
Madison WI

**From:** Nicholas Davies <nbdavies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No on the transit funding halt!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders,

A few State Street business owners are trying to sabotage our city's much-needed, overdue mass transit system, out of a stereotype, rooted in racism, that transit riders and their clientele do not overlap. That's abhorrent.

Now we have a proposed budget amendment that would halt transit spending, based on that same racist rationale. This halt in funding would come at a crucial time in the project, where we've already secured matching funds at the federal level.

Those of you who try to sabotage mass transit in Madison, know this: your constituents will remember. The people who contributed time and/or money to your campaigns last time will remember. The city residents who are engaging with the BRT project and helping shape it to be equitable, sustainable, and an economic boon for the city, we'll all remember. The people sitting in traffic years from now, instead of on a fast, reliable transit vehicle, will remember. The people who are still commuting 2 hours each way in 2025, because it takes 3 buses to get across town with long waits at transfer points, will remember. Don't think it'll be taken lightly.

This city has been waiting for mass transit for decades, and we've reached a point in our city's growth where we cannot continue to put it off for the next generation.

In redesigning the bus system around BRT, the city was given designs prioritizing ridership vs. coverage, and was tasked with finding a balance between these two priorities--something between 1/99 and 99/1.

If you interpreted that choice as an unreconcilable binary (100/0 vs. 0/100), then I'm urging you to go back and rub a couple more brain cells together, and salvage your reputation. You are capable of understanding this.

We know who put forward this amendment:

Alder Abbas  
Alder Carter  
Alder Harrington-McKinney  
Alder Myadze  
Alder Verveer

I'm not shaming you. I'm not bullying you. I'm just pointing out that if this sabotage succeeds, city residents will know who led it. And we'll add to this list anyone else responsible.

The damage to our city's infrastructure hasn't been done yet though. You still have a chance to correct your mistakes. You can bury this amendment. You can withdraw your names as cosponsors while you still have an opportunity to do so. I hope you do the right thing.

Thank you,

Nick Davies  
3717 Richard St

From: MADELINE LIGHT <madalinz@aol.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:39 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; BRT marketing group <BRT@cityofmadison.com>;  
Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: BRT Alder Abbas' Amendment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom it may concern,

As a citizen of downtown Madison, I am unable to attend the scheduled meeting on Tuesday evening. Never the less, I feel it is important to express my opinion that I am in full support of Alder Abbas' Amendment #15. I think the insistence that BRT be routed directly onto both the Capitol Square and State Street has been a bully tactic and not in the best interest of the community. It would be a much better option to be routed onto the outer loop and off of State Street. Please listen to the people who will be most impacted, including the businesses on State Street which you supposedly are so concerned about. Thanks for your time,  
Maddie Light

**From:** Nicholas Loumos <nloumos@focusedinterruption.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 12:02 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Anthony Cooper Sr <acooper@focusedinterruption.org>  
**Subject:** Please Vote for Amendment 8

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

Please vote for Amendment 8 to transfer \$200,000 to purchased services to fund a contract with Focused Interruption for gun violence prevention programming. It is well understood by all parties that the awareness and understanding about gun violence prevention are the result of the work of Focused Interruption, and in particular the work of Anthony Cooper for the past 5 years. The partnerships and relationships built with local government, community organizations, hospitals and law enforcement agencies is demonstrated in numerous ways, including funding.

As you know, we have spent months working with PHMDC to adopt an evidence-based, comprehensive public health approach to violence reduction known as the Gun Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS), which has been implemented in cities across the country since 1996, typically reducing shootings by up to 60%. This would have meant having PHMDC play a key role, in partnership with Focused Interruption, in adopting the GVRS, which would have required some shift in practice within PHMDC to embrace this. Despite our best efforts to build such a partnership with PHMDC to adopt GVRS, those discussions ended last week with the decision by PHMDC not to adopt this approach at this time. Regardless, we intend to continue to work with PHMDC, the City, the County and our numerous other partners to establish a Madison Area Gun Violence Reduction Strategy. We look forward to continued support from the City departments and Common Council in implementing this lifesaving work.

Unfortunately, Anthony is on a vacation booked many months ago and only has intermittent internet access at best. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions. Please know that whatever happens, we remain committed to the idea of a safe and fair Madison for all.

On behalf of Anthony B. Cooper Sr, President and CEO of Focused Interruption, and myself Nick Loumos, COO of Focused Interruption, we look forward to continuing to reimagine public safety together with you, and thank you all for your time and service on this critical issue.

--

Nicholas Loumos  
608-469-0598  
*Chief Operations Officer*  
*Focused Interruption*

From: Diana C <busybees2@juno.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 1:40 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Monroe St Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders of Madison,

Please support the operating budget amendment to expand hours at the Monroe Branch.

Libraries are one of the few institutions that are welcoming to all patrons. This branch is not fancy or high tech but it serves an important purpose in many of our lives. When it was closed for the year, the community felt a void. Three days a week is nice but for many people it serves, this is not enough. Supporting the budget amendment means supporting kids, seniors, people with lower incomes along with rest of the library loving community.

Thank you.

Diana Cohen  
(Greenbush Neighborhood)

**From:** Gail Anderson <andersonelsass@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 2:41 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please support amendment to restore Monroe St. Library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders.

I urge you to support Ald. Bennett's and Ald. Evers' amendment to restore the Monroe Street Library service from 3 days per week to 5 days per week. The Library Board voted unanimously last week to support this. When cuts had to be made last year for the 2021 budget, that Board stated it would restore Monroe branch to its 2019 hours of operation as soon as possible.

From Bayview to many neighborhoods, Monroe Street Library serves our community well. However, being open only 3 days a week seriously restricts this service.

Please support this amendment!

Gail Anderson  
711 S. Orchard St. #202  
Madison 53715

**From:** Dave McMurray <dave@planetbike.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe Street Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing to express my support for the amendment to expand the hours of operation for the Monroe Street library branch. It's a good little library that is an important asset to our community.

Sincerely,  
David McMurray

**From:** Aulik Juli A <JAulik@uwhealth.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 3:37 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Aulik Juli A <JAulik@uwhealth.org>  
**Subject:** UW Health requests your support for budget amendment 8

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

(Sent by me (UW Health's director of community relations and local government affairs on behalf of those signed at the end with my support as well).

We, the below signed, represent the leadership of the Emergency Departments, Level 1 Adult Trauma Center, and Security Department of UW Health. We are writing to offer our strong support for budget amendment 8 that would provide \$200,000 in funding to Focused Interruption. We request you vote to adopt.

- Focused Interruption has years of experience interrupting gun violence and connecting with patients and family members. We see the success firsthand in our Emergency Department and our Trauma Center where we care for patients with gunshot wounds. The organization is uniquely equipped to collaborate with UW Health.
- When notified that gunshot victims are being transported to UW Hospital, Focused Interruption responders arrive at the Emergency Department and provide support for victims and their families. Their time onsite for events can be lengthy, often multiple hours for a singular event. The nurses, security staff, surgeons, and social workers in the UW Hospital Emergency Departments, Trauma Department, and Security Department are grateful for this partnership.
- We have worked closely and in collaboration with Focused Interruption for more than five years. This is captured in a Letter of Agreement between the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority and Focused Interruption that states, "...UW Health and FIC wish to collaborate on violence prevention and crisis response efforts to help mitigate the effects of trauma by making FIC representatives available at UW Health locations to provide peer support, information, and resources to individuals involved in instances of violence"-- not an agreement that is offered lightly by UW Health to external partners. Furthermore, they have provided internal education to healthcare teams (workshops, in services, etc.) and provide external collaboration to discuss improvement work (ED remodel, policies, regular biweekly event debriefings).
- Focused Interruption representatives participate in New Employee Orientation and comply with all requirements a paid employee must meet. We issue non-employee UW Health badges to approved personnel, allowing Focused Interruption responders to meet with patients throughout our facilities.

- Our Adult Trauma Injury Prevention Program works closely with Focused Interruption through the Dane County Violence Prevention Collaborative, established in April 2020 by the UW Health Adult Injury Prevention Program, Focused Interruption, The Rainbow Project, and DAIS to address and prevent violence in our community.
- Finally, UW Health provides financial support to Focused Interruption for their work to end gun violence in the Madison area.

If we can provide any information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by response to this email. Thank you.

**Ann P. O'Rourke, MD, MPH, FACS**  
**Medical Director, Level I Adult Trauma, UW Health**  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
General Surgery Program Director  
University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery  
Acute Care Surgery

**Ciara Barclay-Buchanan, MD, FACEP**  
**Vice Chair of Operations, BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine**  
Chief of Emergency Medicine, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital  
Associate Professor (CHS) of Emergency Medicine  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health | UW Health

**Joshua Gauger, MD, MBA**  
**Medical Director, University Hospital Emergency Department, UW Health**  
Assistant Professor (CHS) of Emergency Medicine  
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health

**Chris R. Corrigan**  
**Director of Security Services**  
UW Health, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics

**Thomas Ellison, MS, RN CCRN, TCRN**  
**Manager, Level I Adult Trauma**  
UW Health, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics

**Jennifer Hankwitz, MSN, RN**  
**Director Emergency Services**  
UW Health, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics

**Mary R. Lauby**  
**Injury Prevention Coordinator**  
UW Health, Adult Level 1 Trauma Center

**From:** VNA President <vnapresident@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 3:39 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #2 (67496) - Monroe Street Branch Library Hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Members of the Madison Common Council,

The Vilas Neighborhood Association urges you to adopt an amendment to the Mayor's proposed 2022 budget to fund increasing the hours of service at the Monroe Street Branch Library from 3 to 5 days a week, as recommended by the Madison Public Library Board, the Madison Public Library Foundation, and our Alder, Tag Evers.

The importance of the Monroe Street Branch to this neighborhood is evidenced by the exceptionally high volume of use it receives from area residents, many of whom walk to get there. Increasing the hours would improve access to the library's services and put our neighborhood branch on a more equal footing with the service provided in other parts of the City. The Monroe Street Branch is smaller than other libraries and would understandably still have fewer hours, but it would be significantly closer to providing full service than is possible with the current 3-day, Tuesday-Friday-Saturday configuration.

The library is an important feature of our neighborhood. In addition to providing much valued library services, it serves as a destination, contributing to the area's walkability, strengthening community by creating opportunities for residents to encounter and engage with neighbors, and generating foot traffic that is good for the local businesses on Monroe Street. Increasing the library hours from 3 days to 5 would have multiple benefits.

Respectfully,  
Vilas Neighborhood Association  
Sarah Bahauddin- VNA President

From: Nancy Webb <rupa621@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:17 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Monroe Street Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Absolutely in favor of increasing library hours. More than any other single entity, it is this library branch that makes our neighborhood especially livable and inclusive.

Nancy Webb  
1710 Adams Street  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Barb Sanford <barbsanford@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 4:32 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Expansion of Monroe Street Library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I urge you to vote to expand Monroe Street Library's open hours to five days (item #2 [67496]). As a former volunteer at the library, I have seen firsthand how essential the library is to the neighborhood and how vital it is to so many people. For example, my friend and neighbor Nancy Phipps—in her 70s, lives on Social Security, doesn't own a car or computer, has numerous health issues—relies heavily on the Monroe Street Library. She's only one of many.

The library is the soul of our neighborhood. It provides its many loyal customers with the materials they need, internet access, answers to reference questions, adult and children's programs, and voting registration. My family has cherished it for over 30 years. Please vote to bring it back to a full-time, full-service library that is so crucial to the health of our neighborhood and our community as a whole. Thank you for your consideration and support of our libraries.

Barb Sanford

Barbara Sanford Editorial LLC  
Barb Sanford  
1211 Garfield St  
Madison WI 53711

From: Gillian Nevers <neversgillian@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:36 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Expanding hours at Monroe Street Branch Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Madison Common Council,

I strongly support expanding the hours of operation of the Monroe Street Library to five days a week. I have lived in the Vilas neighborhood for 43 years; and before that in the Dudgeon-Monroe neighborhood. Until Covid closed libraries for in-person use, I visited the Monroe Street branch at least once a week. My children, now 47 and 52, grew up using the library and as a result are still supporters and users of libraries wherever they live. I am now 77 years-old and anticipate that a day will come, hopefully far in the future, when I may give up driving. I'd like to know that the Monroe Street branch will be open for me to walk to, should that day come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gillian Nevers  
Madison Street

**From:** Lisa Hempstead <lhempstead@madison.k12.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 4:48 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support Amendment to 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing to you not only as a resident of district 5 and a public school librarian, but also as the Madison Metropolitan School District Representative serving on the Madison Public Library Board. I am asking each member of the Common Council to please support amendment 14 which would enable the city to reinstate full operating hours at the Monroe Street Library.

The library is a vital resource in our community. When the initial 5% reduction in the operating budget was proposed the community spoke out loud and clear in support of the Monroe Street Library. I personally received over a 100 emails in support of keeping the library open. Elderly who have lived in the neighborhood for decades, school children from Randall and West HS, and families from all backgrounds reached out to me to make a valid plea to maintain access to Monroe Street library. Many of the patrons are strong supporters of MPL and it would be a disservice to alienate them. This is our opportunity to give back to a neighborhood that consistently supports the city of Madison's services via revenue from property taxes and donor gifts.

It is also a superb example of an eco-friendly neighborhood branch in which patrons primarily access on foot. We should be encouraging and replicating this successful model.

The library is a keystone destination, local small businesses hit hard by the pandemic will benefit from the increased hours.

A mere \$70,000 in funding would restore a .7 FTE Library Assistant as well as 20 hours of Library Page time which would provide sufficient staffing for 16 additional service hours per week. This would justifiably restore 5 days of service to the only branch in the MPL system that is currently only open 3 days. Monroe Street branch has often been neglected to the detriment of the community.

It may be small but the Monroe St. Branch has more foot traffic per square foot than any other branch in the system.

I thank you for your service and commitment to making our neighborhoods safe and desirable places to reside.

Regards,  
Lisa Hempstead

From: Ginny Kester <ginny.kester@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:05 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Monroe St Library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please expand the library's hours to five days a week. It is a valued asset to all generations in our neighborhood.

Thank you,  
Ginny Kester  
909 Lincoln St.  
Madison

**From:** Liz Jesse <liz.jesse@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 5:48 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Martin, Arvina <district11@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Do Not Delay BRT!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Evening,

I am writing in opposition to capital budget amendment 15 that would temporarily halt, and potentially permanently stop, BRT for Madison. Any delay in bus rapid transit planning increases project costs, decreases the potential for rapid adoption by riders, and sets the tone for further, potentially indefinite delays.

We need this for our growing city. It is unfair for Madison to continue to give an unfair transportation advantage to people that drive cars. Personal vehicle use is the largest source of urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. BRT is key to reducing personal vehicle dependence, and thus is an essential step towards greenhouse gas and urban air pollution reduction.

I urge you to vote against this amendment and support bus rapid transit without delay.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Elizabeth Jesse  
5126 S Hill Dr, Madison, WI 53705

**From:** amanda k <atkemnitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:22 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe Street Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a regular user of the MOnroe Street Library I fully support restoring the operating hours to full time.

Thank you,  
amanda kemnitz

**From:** Nicholas Davies <nbdavies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:38 PM  
**To:** Harrington-McKinney, Barbara <district1@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Re: No on the transit funding halt!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alder Harrington-McKinney,

I appreciate you engaging in dialogue on this. I've omitted your words below, because I didn't want to share what you wrote without your consent. But I think this is relevant to others on the council as well...

I don't mean to impugn your motivations, or those of the other alders I named. A few wealthy State Street business owners have a vision for a more segregated, affluent-only downtown. Taking actions that further that vision doesn't mean that you share it.

It seems like the amendment is attempting to make a statement. The problem is that, if it succeeds, what people will remember is the action (not the words) of sabotaging mass transit, which will disproportionately affect those who rely on transit today, and who have long deserved better. Whatever press release went along with the amendment will be lost--I haven't even seen one myself. Whatever logical contortions it takes to justify this to yourself will be irrelevant in the accounting of your legacy.

Should the network redesign consider and incorporate and prioritize equity? Of course. Absolutely. Without question. The consultants doing that redesign need council input to do that. If there's somewhere specific that a bus route needs to go, tell them, please. Sabotaging the entire thing instead is not fair to the people who need you to actually advocate for them in this process.

You had some questions about where I'm coming from, but I won't bore you with that. When I advocate for transit, it's not about me.

I think about the group of blind folks I shared a long, winding bus route to work with for years.

I think about the people living in pockets of affordable housing on the far east side or far west side, whose job opportunities or educational opportunities are across town. I think about the small business owners of all backgrounds who are desperate to hire, but that next hire can't afford car ownership yet.

I think about the service industry workers on State Street, whose bosses don't pay them a living wage, and now want to relegate the working class to the back door, or walking the long way around.

I think about the young folks expected to find their own way to get where they need to go, and somehow get ahold of a car to do so. I don't condone car theft, but we won't address the root cause until we give them better options.

I think about the historically underserved neighborhoods like Allied Drive that bear the brunt of air pollution, light pollution, and noise pollution, while being cut off from the rest of the city by that same highway that we're inexplicably expanding in real time.

I think about the thousands of people who will become city residents in the next few years. I think about the thousands more who will have to leave if there isn't any practical way for them to get around.

I just try to listen and understand what people are dealing with. I'm sure you do too, alder. But I suspect you're also hearing from business interests that I'm not--I've reached out to these "yellow sticker" State Street business owners, and they won't talk to me. Maybe they think I'm worthless just because I take the bus sometimes.

Thank you,  
Nick Davies

On Nov 8, 2021, at 10:41 AM, Nicholas Davies <[nbdavies@gmail.com](mailto:nbdavies@gmail.com)> wrote:

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders,

A few State Street business owners are trying to sabotage our city's much-needed, overdue mass transit system, out of a stereotype, rooted in racism, that transit riders and their clientele do not overlap. That's abhorrent.

Now we have a proposed budget amendment that would halt transit spending, based on that same racist rationale. This halt in funding would come at a crucial time in the project, where we've already secured matching funds at the federal level.

Those of you who try to sabotage mass transit in Madison, know this: your constituents will remember. The people who contributed time and/or money to your campaigns last time will remember. The city residents who are engaging with the BRT project and helping shape it to be equitable, sustainable, and an economic boon for the city, we'll all remember. The people sitting in traffic years from now, instead of on a fast, reliable transit vehicle, will remember. The people who are still commuting 2 hours each way in 2025, because it takes 3 buses to get across town with long waits at transfer points, will remember. Don't think it'll be taken lightly.

This city has been waiting for mass transit for decades, and we've reached a point in our city's growth where we cannot continue to put it off for the next generation.

In redesigning the bus system around BRT, the city was given designs prioritizing ridership vs. coverage, and was tasked with finding a balance between these two priorities--something between 1/99 and 99/1.

If you interpreted that choice as an unreconcilable binary (100/0 vs. 0/100), then I'm urging you to go back and rub a couple more brain cells together, and salvage your reputation. You are capable of understanding this.

We know who put forward this amendment:

Alder Abbas

Alder Carter

Alder Harrington-McKinney

Alder Myadze

Alder Verveer

I'm not shaming you. I'm not bullying you. I'm just pointing out that if this sabotage succeeds, city residents will know who led it. And we'll add to this list anyone else responsible.

The damage to our city's infrastructure hasn't been done yet though. You still have a chance to correct your mistakes. You can bury this amendment. You can withdraw your names as cosponsors while you still have an opportunity to do so. I hope you do the right thing.

Thank you,

Nick Davies

3717 Richard St

**From:** kyleandheatherhanson@gmail.com <kyleandheatherhanson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:53 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Oppose capital budget amendment 15

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Kyle Hanson  
**Address:** 1833 Helena St., Madison, WI 53704  
**Phone:** 608-772-0734  
**Email:** [kyleandheatherhanson@gmail.com](mailto:kyleandheatherhanson@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Madison Common Council Members,  
I'm opposed to capital budget amendment 15 that would derail the BRT project. The city is rapidly growing and climate change is becoming a crisis. Our city desperately needs to support more non-car transportation options like BRT. The majority of Madison residents support this project, however very few are willing or able to attend marathon council meetings to join hostile debates in support. The quibble over state street bus stop locations is NOT worth the risk of delaying this whole project. Delays in large public transportation projects causes them to die, like the high speed rail project to Milwaukee. The public input phase of this project has passed and state street businesses need to accept that major changes are off the table. Please keep your attention on the long term needs of our city and keep BRT on track!

Thanks,  
Kyle Hanson

**From:** Anne Forbes <amforbes3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 7:08 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for expanding Monroe Street Library operation

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please support the operating budget amendment being offered by Alders Bennett and Evers from the Council floor tomorrow (Item #2 - 67496) to expand the Monroe Street Library hours of operation from three days per week to five days per week.

The Library Board voted last week to fund this expansion from the library reserve, which makes this amendment revenue neutral with respect to the levy - a compelling reason to support rather than oppose it.

Thank you,  
Anne Forbes  
Greenbush Neighborhood

**From:** janice steinberg <monroestreet2004@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 7:59 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** support of Monroe St, Library changes

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I have lived on Monroe St, for a little over 27 years at the Clarendon Apartments, I have been extremely blessed by the Monroe St. Library. I support 5 day week for the Library being open on Saturdays, which I know is a plus, we were closed one day a week, and that was Thursday, With that one day closed, I know that people would not mind that, with the Saturday hours of 9-5, like other libraries in Madison have. I know that our library surpasses in attendance and circulation, over at least one library branch. I don't recall, but our my Alder, Tag Evans noted it, That being the case, why should the Monroe Street Library be singled out with having hours cut? We have the smallest Library, so that speaks for itself. People, including myself, miss the Monroe St, Library having the library open 5 days a week. I am glad that we have Saturday hours, but to have four more days open would be great. It has computers and newspapers to go with a great collection of books and magazines. Please take consideration my email that supports having the library open for 5 days a week, including Saturdays, with one day closed, instead of having only 3 days a week open, including Saturdays. It would mean opening it for one other weekday. Thank you, Janice Steinberg

From: Janet Laube <janetlaube@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:00 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Monroe Street library hours of service

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders, I am writing in support of an expansion of the current 3-day schedule at Monroe Street Library to a 5-day schedule. The library is an anchor in the surrounding neighborhoods, and its accessibility for foot traffic is highly desirable for the livability of the neighborhoods. I find it is inconvenient to have the library open only three non-contiguous days, although I am grateful to the city for maintaining the library in this area and have appreciated having it open even on a limited basis. Please consider using the library reserve to expand the library services on Monroe Street.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Janet Laube  
2025 Jefferson Street

**From:** Constance Bell <constance.e.bell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:12 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support of Restoring the Monroe St. Public Library to Full Operation

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Constance Bell and I live at 507 Leonard Street, Madison. I want to express my support for restoring the Monroe Street Public Library to full operation. This library is a wonderful asset to our community. It provides reliable internet and access to reading materials to all residents. It should be restored to full operation so everyone in our community can take advantage of this great resource.

Thank you,  
Constance Bell

**From:** Connor Stone <cdstone262@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:17 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Capital Budget Amendment 15 Opposition

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

We are writing in opposition to capital budget amendment 15 that would temporarily halt—and potentially permanently stop—bus rapid transit (BRT) for Madison. Any delay in BRT planning increases project costs, decreases the potential for rapid adoption by riders, and sets the tone for further, potentially indefinite delay (including the timeline for the second BRT line connecting the North and South Sides). Madison Bikes understands that we cannot achieve our vision of a city accessible by bike to anyone, safely and comfortably year-round if we do not also rapidly improve public transit for all in Madison. People on bikes need a functional transit system, and that functional transit system relies on BRT.

Bus rapid transit is a crucial issue for everyone's transportation in Madison and for our city as a whole. Reducing climate gas emissions, enabling sustainable mobility, and eliminating injuries and death in traffic all rely on a truly multimodal transportation system. Madison is a rapidly growing city with a constrained geography. With only few corridors to travel through the isthmus, transit in Madison naturally lends itself to high capacity rapid transit, i.e., bus rapid transit. Bus rapid transit and the long overdue network redesign are also closely tied together, and slowing down one part endangers the other.

We therefore urge you to vote against this amendment and support bus rapid transit without delay.

Respectfully,

Connor Stone, on behalf of the Madison Bikes Board of Directors

Connor Stone

Board Member, Madison Bikes Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit

[Connor@Madisonbikes.org](mailto:Connor@Madisonbikes.org)

262-770-6557



# Madison Bikes

Madison Bikes  
PO Box 260244  
Madison, WI 53726-0244  
info@madisonbikes.org  
www.madisonbikes.org

Madison Bikes, PO Box 260244, Madison, WI 53726-0244

Members of the City of Madison Common  
Council

Madison, November 9, 2021

## **In opposition to capital budget amendment 15 (bus rapid transit)**

Dear Alders:

We are writing in opposition to capital budget amendment 15 that would temporarily halt—and potentially permanently stop—bus rapid transit (BRT) for Madison. Any delay in BRT planning increases project costs, decreases the potential for rapid adoption by riders, and sets the tone for further, potentially indefinite delay (including the timeline for the second BRT line connecting the North and South Sides). Madison Bikes understands that we cannot achieve our vision of a city accessible by bike to anyone, safely and comfortably year-round if we do not also rapidly improve public transit for all in Madison. People on bikes need a functional transit system, and that functional transit system relies on BRT.

Bus rapid transit is a crucial issue for everyone's transportation in Madison and for our city as a whole. Reducing climate gas emissions, enabling sustainable mobility, and eliminating injuries and death in traffic all rely on a truly multimodal transportation system. Madison is a rapidly growing city with a constrained geography. With only few corridors to travel

through the isthmus, transit in Madison naturally lends itself to high capacity rapid transit, i.e., bus rapid transit. Bus rapid transit and the long overdue network redesign are also closely tied together, and slowing down one part of it endangers the other.

We therefore urge you to vote against this amendment and support bus rapid transit without delay.

Respectfully,

Connor Stone  
on behalf of the Madison Bikes Board of Directors

**From:** litweilerc@hotmail.com <litweilerc@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:28 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] BRT Route Amendment to Capital Budget

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Chuck Litweiler  
**Address:** 5 Lukken Court, Madison, WI 53704  
**Email:** [litweilerc@hotmail.com](mailto:litweilerc@hotmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I support the Amendment requiring Council approval of the BRT Route before funds are released for the project. This is the stage for settling on the route through the inner isthmus/State Street area. The general public has not been involved to date.

**From:** ljbrown607@gmail.com <ljbrown607@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:48 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] 11/9/21 meeting item 1, amendment 15

**Recipient:** All Alders  
**Name:** Laura Brown  
**Address:** 607 Piper Dr., Madison, WI 53711  
**Phone:** 608-274-9367  
**Email:** [ljbrown607@gmail.com](mailto:ljbrown607@gmail.com)  
**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email  
**Message:**  
Nov. 9, 2021 Madison Common Council Meeting

Re: Item 1 - 2022 utive Capital Budget, Amendment 15

Dear Alders,

I strongly object to the proposed amendment to delay expenditure of BRT funds until the council has approved all BRT routes and the modifications to other routes.

I object to this delay. Planning must continue or we face the very real chance that the BRT will not happen at all. This money is needed to continue to progress from the 30% stage.

Further, as development happens around BRT routes, moving the BRT off State Street runs the risk of hurting State Street businesses and instead encouraging business growth elsewhere. I personally have noticed stores from the bus, and returned to shop later. With the turnover of businesses on State Street, the view from the bus is great advertising. I have purchased at least one item because I spotted it in a Monroe Street store window while passing on the bus.

I want to be dropped as close to the place I'm going as possible. Having the bus drop me right next to a State Street restaurant or the Overture Center is a great reason to ride the bus. In a rain storm or a cold winter day I don't want to be dropped blocks away, especially in the dark. The downtown area is confusing, so as an older female I also don't want to be walking around in the dark trying to find the bus stop to get home. This might mean that I won't attend activities downtown.

Please let the planning go forward, and respect the work done by our professional staff.

Sincerely,

Laura Brown  
607 Piper Dr.  
Madison, WI 53711



From: DAVID SHAW <dbshaw@mac.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:17 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Monroe Street library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I have always visited the Monroe Street library often. It is hard to plan around the reduced hours. Please reinstate as much of the 6 day a week schedule as possible. Thank you David

From: Cindy Koschmann <ckoschmann53@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:46 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Support for increased hours at Monroe St library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To all alders,

Please approve the operating budget amendment by Bennett and Evers to expand library hours at the Monroe St library from 3 to 5 days a week. I have lived in the Greenbush neighborhood for over 40 years and have been a regular patron of this library. The pandemic caused most of us to miss a lot of things we take for granted in our lives. One of those things was being able to easily walk or bike to my local library on more than just a few select days a week. Increasing the availability of my neighborhood library would help in returning to normal life. Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Koschmann  
Emerald St

**From:** j.zach.johnson@gmail.com <j.zach.johnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 10:16 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Budget Amendment 15: Conditional funding for BRT project

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Zach Johnson  
**Address:** 522 McCormick Ave, Madison, WI 53704  
**Phone:** 847-567-3314  
**Email:** [j.zach.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:j.zach.johnson@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Common Council,

Do NOT go forward with budget amendment 15 to the 2022 Capital Budget that will force conditions on future funding for the BRT project and ultimately years in delays to the project. We cannot afford to put this project off any longer.

The bus system is in dire need of BRT. Without it, Madison Metro will continue to be nothing more than a poorly implemented welfare program for those who have no other mode of transportation. If we want our bus system to be a serious transportation option in this city to handle issues with congestion, carbon emissions, and other quality of life metrics, we have no option but to continue forward. Any delay in this project risks the project becoming permanently shelved due to any number of unforeseen circumstances.

In addition, Madison Metro is already doing a lot of work getting information about the BRT route and metro overhaul out to residents. They have been working on this for years so far, and have been putting a lot of effort towards making the new bus system not only be more efficient and useful for the general population but also for folks of color and low income residents. What do we gain by having the Common Council double check their work? Any issues with changes in routes can be dealt with outside of the Common Council as part of either the BRT project or the general restructuring/overhaul. Further, if we don't like changes in the non-BRT routes, we can always update them and move them around. We don't have to pretend like this iteration of the bus system will be the last.

Please allow the BRT project to continue to move forward as expected. Anything less would be incredibly foolish and akin to when our former Governor turned down federal funding for a Milwaukee/Madison high speed train which we will now never have in my lifetime.

**From:** ROBERT M FACTOR <rmfactor@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:16 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe St Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To the Alders of the Madison Common Council,  
I strongly support the operating budget amendment offered by my Alder, Tag Evers, and Alder Bennett to expand Monroe Street Library hours of operation from three days per week to five days per week. The Library Board voted last week to fund this expansion from the library reserve, which makes this amendment revenue neutral with respect to the levy.

The Monroe St Library Branch is a true asset to the local neighborhoods, and to the business on Monroe St. It is well used. It would be excellent for it to be open 5 days per week instead of the current 3 days per week.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and I do hope you find it possible to support it.

Robert Factor  
1808 Jefferson St.  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Aj Johnson <ajgardener3x7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:41 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe St. Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please restore the Monroe St. Public Library to full hours. Our library is a vital part of our community where we can meet friends and neighbors. It reminds me of Cheers. it is a place where everyone knows your name! As a person who does not drive, I love the fact that I can walk to this branch library. It is within walking distance or biking distance. For a city that prides itself on being a biker and walker-friendly community, it is important to show support for our little local branch library. Not only do we support Monroe St., we are also a part of the bigger community. Please show us the love! Support us and the people who work there. We appreciate it so much!!

**From:** Laurie S <laswimm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:29 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** operating budget amendment to expand Monroe St Library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders,

We are writing in favor of the budget amendment to expand Monroe St Library hours offered by Alders Evers and Bennett.

Monroe St Library is part of the "glue" that is so important to our community. It serves as a community center of sorts where we can gather, either spontaneously or not. Currently the diminished hours have limited our ability to use the library resources that are important to us. We look forward to increased opportunities to access these resources with the library's increased hours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie and Lee Swimm  
Greenbush residents

**From:** Pat Scheckel <pschecke@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:16 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe Street Library Hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm writing to support increased operating hours for the Monroe Street Library. It is my home library and it serves many seniors who walk there.

Pat Scheckel  
1915 Jefferson St

From: Rena Gelman <rena\_gelman@live.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:34 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Keep buses of State Street.

**From:** Larry and Ginny White <lgwhites@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:05 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** No BRT Busses on State Street!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

This is our **fourth** email to you urging that all of State Street be excluded from the proposed BRT route. We are long-time residents and property tax payers and we voted for you for mayor. We find your intransigence in the face of widespread opposition to BRT buses on State Street troubling.

Downtown Madison should be a destination, not a place to pass through as quickly as possible. Your myopic vision for BRT will degrade the ambience of both State Street and the Capitol Square. It's time for you to rethink your destructive plan.

Sincerely,

Ginny and Larry White  
71 Oak Creek Trail  
Madison, Wis. 5371y

**From:** Barbara Erlenborn <bjerlenb@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:11 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Alders, please support full operation of the Monroe Street Library. I have been a West Lawn resident for 50 years and I recall taking my children to the Monroe St. library to pick up picture books all the way up to research books. We attended story hour for tots and truly... the library was an important part of our day! I feel sorry for the little ones in the neighborhood who have to rely on off hours, alternate days of operation, etc. to experience the joy of visiting the Monroe Street Library. Please bring it back to full operation. I suspect the attendance is down at Monroe Street Library for one very important reason... it is not open full time. If it were, the neighborhood would utilize it and take some of the pressure off Sequoia Library. Please return our library to us in full force. Sincerely,  
Barbara Erlenborn

**From:** George Tervalon III <outlook\_63F8B0A3C36AEF18@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:10 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Police Department Budget Support

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning:

I am forwarding the attached letter that was previously directed to the Finance Committee to express support for the proposed Madison Police Department Budget.

This statement of support is being directed on behalf of the Madison Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to bring our support to the attention of the full council.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Tervalon, Polemarch (President)  
Madison Alumni Chapter  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



**KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.®**  
The Madison Alumni Chapter  
7285 Fountain Circle  
Middleton, WI 53562

**November 2, 2012**

**City of Madison  
Finance Committee  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 210  
Madison, WI 53703**

**RE: Police Department 2022 Operating Budget Proposal**

**Dear Finance Committee Chair:**

**The Madison Alumni Chapter is forwarding this brief yet important correspondence in support of the 2022 Operating Budget that was submitted by the Madison Police Department.**

**More specifically, we fully support Chief Barnes his proposal and his team's justifications for each of the line-item elements within the Operating Budget outline.**

**It is our hope that the full council will provide the necessary fiscal support to enable the Department to install new initiatives that will better serve the Madison Community going forward.**

**We look forward to continuing to provide staunch support for the women and men within the Madison Police Department.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**George Tervalon, III, Polemarch (President)  
Madison Alumni Chapter  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
[geotiii@aol.com](mailto:geotiii@aol.com)**

**From:** Matt Lazio <matt.lazio@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:16 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe St library hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly support the funding of increased hours at the Monroe St library. It is a vital institution in the Vilas neighborhood and a major reason why we moved to the neighborhood.

Thank you in advance.

Matt Lazio 1812 Adams St, Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Erik Paulson <epaulson@unit1127.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support BRT tonight: do not vote to delay it

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders -

Please vote to move forward with the current bus rapid transport plan. It is an important part of Madison's future, and a project-wide pause would be bad. We want to get shovels into the ground as soon as possible.

One nice thing about BRT is that if we want to make changes in the future, a BRT change is much easier than say a light-rail change. If the route goes down State St and two years from now we are all convinced that it shouldn't have gone down State St, in the grand scheme of things it's not that hard to make a change later. (Jackhammering a raised platform out and repairing the sidewalk is a lot less costly than mistakes in other construction projects: a BRT platform doesn't need us to bulldoze a neighborhood or clearcut a forest)

Everyone agrees on 95% of the BRT system, so let's started now. A systemwide delay tonight would be a mistake.

Erik Paulson  
202 DeMilo Way (District 3)  
Madison

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:19 AM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** 67001 2022 Capital Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders:

Re: Common Council Item #1 **67001 2022 Capital Budget**

I ask you to **SUPPORT** the following amendments:

- #12- Police Property and Evidence Facility
- #13- Police Vehicles for the Town of Madison
- #15-E-W Bus Rapid Transit

I ask you to **OPPOSE** the following amendments:

#1- ADU Lending Program

#8- CARES Vehicles

#9- Henry Vilas Zoo Funding Transfer

Thank you for smart choices regarding Madison finances.

Janet Hirsch

District 9

From: Mary Lang Sollinger <sollingerml@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:22 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; BRT marketing group <BRT@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: TONIGHT'S City Council Meeting on the BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Mayor, Alders, and BRT City Staff,

Tonight at the City Council meeting, the BRT will be debated regarding amendment 15.

I have been on two virtual presentations led by the City Staff and appreciate all the work for this new transit system.

The mechanics and design work very well on the main traffic thoroughfares like East Washington Avenue and enhance the visual landscape and create a more livable and functional urban spaces.

As in many downtown plans, there is a major concern regarding State Street.

This time it is the top three blocks of State Street, regarding the existing culture of the street cafes and casual pedestrian atmosphere.

The speed of the buses and more intense grouping of riders is a major concern.

There will be a 60% reduction of bus traffic on the rest of State Street as well as all bus traffic will be eliminated on lower State,

The outer ring was built to be the vehicle connector route for our transit system.

It seems strange not to use utilize it for the BRT, even though it is a bit over a minute longer.

I hope using the outer ring can be the solution.

I hope there will be some resolve tonight, where the funding and timeline can be respected.

With faith in our processes, the dedicated city staff our Mayor and our concern citizens who all care for our extraordinary city,

Mary Lang Sollinger

**From:** Mark Kliewer <eimark938@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** restoring Monroe St. Library to full hours

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My wife and I would like to strongly support proposed amendment sponsored by Alders Evers and Bennett to restore the Monroe St. Public Library to full operation

thank you  
Mark Kliewer and Eileen Ahearn  
2348 Commonwealth Ave  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** jhirsch@chorus.net <jhirsch@chorus.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 67496 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders:

Re: Common Council Item #2 **67496 2022 Operating Budget**

I ask you to **SUPPORT** the following amendments:

#8- Focused Interruption

I ask you to **OPPOSE** the following amendments:

#3- Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

#11- Cares Crisis Workers - Note that MFD Chief Davis clearly stated that additional CARES expenditures were premature.

I also ask that you oppose any amendments from the floor which would negatively affect the work the MPD Chief Barnes would like to accomplish in 2022. Let's support the hiring decision made by the Police and Fire Commission earlier this year.

Thank you for smart choices regarding Madison finances.

Janet Hirsch  
District 9

**From:** Josh Napravnik <josh.npravnik@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:13 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V. <SRhodes-Conway@cityofmadison.com>; BRT marketing group <BRT@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common Council Amendment Regarding BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello All Alders,

I am disappointed that Madison Alders introduced a recent amendment regarding the downtown BRT route. This is yet another example of alders inserting themselves into a process years too late and trying to delay a project by calling for unnecessary studies. In this case, there are reports that go back years outlining the different routing options for BRT. Here is one from [January of 2020](#). These routes were already voted for by the Common Council. Twice. ([Files 59665](#) on 3/31/2020 and [63184](#) on 1/5/2021).

A delay now will jeopardize Federal funding for the project. If that were to happen, then I am not confident that we will get BRT at all. Tom Lynch indicated that a delay would add 4% to the cost from FTA guidelines - or \$5 million dollars per year. Do you have a plan for paying for the additional costs that you are unnecessarily adding?

Once again, we are seeing business interests take precedence over those of the people who take public transit. During a meeting earlier this year, the State Street businesses said "those who take buses do not frequent our businesses." Those are the type of classist statements that you are defending when you back a few State Street businesses over thousands of transit riders. Their website against BRT even spread the falsehood that "BRT IS COSTING OVER \$10 MILLION PER MILE."

Please vote to keep BRT on track. Please vote to keep the "Rapid" in Bus Rapid Transit.

Thanks,  
Josh Napravnik

Dear Alders,

At the suggestion of my alder, Mike Verveer, I am sending you this letter to the editor of mine (which will not appear in the Wisconsin State Journal until tomorrow [if then]) for your consideration in the deliberations at the Common Council meeting tonight regarding routing bus rapid transit off State Street.

I am registered to speak at the meeting and will elaborate on my objections to the proposed State Street route at that time but I wanted you to have both my documentary and verbal arguments before you.

Thank you for your attention.

Cordially,  
Paul J. Quinn

**As a Downtowner, I want to offer my inexpressible gratitude to Common Council President Syed Abbas and to Alders Sheri Carter, Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Charles Myadze and Mike Verveer for sponsoring the amendment that has finally stopped the Rhodes-Conway bus rapid transit juggernaut from disfiguring State Street.**

I have been thinking a lot lately about the Greenbush residents of fifty years ago, and of the despair with which those pitiable folks must have watched the contractors' machines of demolition advance on their homes.

So it was with me and the seemingly inexorable progress of the State Street trashing.

But your proposed amendment has made me euphoric.

My neighborhood would be safe.

And - - - with that danger passed - - - the most urgent task that the mayor and her minions would have before them (as regards the Downtown BRT segment) is the swift enablement of an alternative off-State-Street route so that the debut of the bus rapid transit system, to which we all look forward, is not delayed by her mooted obsession.

Will they, one wonders, be able to keep their eyes on the ball?

**From:** Teri Boundy <tmboundy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:40 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe Street Library - operating budget amendment

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Members of the Madison Common Council,  
I strongly support increasing the hours of service at the Monroe Street Library. I urge you to adopt an amendment to the Mayor's proposed 2022 budget to fund increasing the hours of service at the Monroe Street Branch Library from 3 to 5 days a week.  
The Monroe Street Library is an important part of our neighborhood. Increasing the hours would improve access to the library's services and put our neighborhood branch more equibilty aligned with the service provided in other parts of the City.

Respectfully,  
Teri Boundy  
1905 Jefferson Street  
Madison, WI

**From:** Rhockers@aol.com <Rhockers@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:43 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Rita Hockers  
**Address:** 237 Division St, Madison, WI 53794  
**Phone:** 608-577-2569  
**Email:** [Rhockers@aol.com](mailto:Rhockers@aol.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote against BRT Please vote against BRT routes and stations on the Capitol routes and stations around the Capitol and top of State Street. I work downtown and have seen how the local businesses are already struggling to survive. This will just make less people want to go to State Street. Please route the BRT buses and stations on nearby streets.

**From:** marylinmalloy@gmail.com <marylinmalloy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Amendments

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Mary Malloy  
**Address:** 4414 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705  
**Phone:** 608-233-5513  
**Email:** [marylinmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:marylinmalloy@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please support Capital Amendments 12 and 13 . Please oppose Operating Amendment 11. We need to support our exemplary Police Department in these difficult times. They are a model for the nation.

**From:** Beth Sluys <sluysb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:13 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Article on E buses

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

In February 2020, the BRT system implemented in Indianapolis, Indiana, decided to NOT purchase E buses due to the technology not providing the charge capacity for the buses they purchased. The system in Indianapolis (Indy GO) was created by Justin Stuehrenberg, who now works for Metro, and is a key player in the design and development of our BRT system. Please read this article about why the city of Indianapolis canceled its order on E buses and instead opted to return to diesel buses. Justin knows better than anyone that the E bus technology is iffy at best, at least at this point in the development of the technology.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/transportation/2020/02/28/indygo-agency-order-diesel-buses-cancels-electric-bus-order/4903343002/>

Thank you for your service to the residents of Madison.

Beth Sluys  
District 18

**From:** Gregory Frank <gfrank94@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT: Agenda item 1 amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of capital budget amendment 15, which gives you, as our elected policy makers, a say in the future of our economy and transportation system. I won't go into the details, since I'm sure you have read and heard all of the information and documentation already.

BRT is important, and we need to do it right. We need to assess all routes and how they impact the future of our downtown and outlining neighborhoods. I have been involved with downtown BRT routing discussions since the start of the process. As a downtown business owner; past chair of a tourism organization; past BID chair and executive committee member; member of DMI committees, and member of the city's Downtown Coordinating Committee, I have been in more meetings re BRT than I can count. In all of those meetings, we were told we would have a say in routing of BRT after a locally preferred route was submitted to the feds; that the route was just a placeholder. I feel we were misled. There are options that make sense; take no more time; make travel and accessibility to downtown easy and convenient; and allow for flexibility in revitalizing the State Street corridor.

The council can take back this vital oversight role without slowing the process down. You, as our elected leaders, can make sure your neighbors are heard and that the best routing decisions for our bus system are made. This is too big to allow a decision to be railroaded through. Your voices need to be heard. The connectivity and economy of downtown and the rest of the city depend on you voting in favor of this amendment.

Thank You,

Greg Frank

**From:** connymares3@gmail.com <connymares3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Capital amendments

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** conny mares  
**Address:** 478 Orchard Dr, Madison, WI 53711  
**Email:** [connymares3@gmail.com](mailto:connymares3@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please support our safety! Please support Capital amendments 12 and 13 and vote operating amendment 11.

**From:** tnikolai@summitcf.com <tnikolai@summitcf.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Tim Nikolai  
**Address:** 624 W Washington Ave, MADISON, WI 53703  
**Email:** [tnikolai@summitcf.com](mailto:tnikolai@summitcf.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the BRT stops on State St. I respectfully disagree with the premise that the stops in that area can't be placed on side streets. I have seen no valid public explanation that makes any sense as to why they have to be directly on State St. If it takes extra time to implement this important program, fine. Get it right. Further, I request that the council makes the appropriate effort to finally convert State St to a pedestrian mall with an emergency lane. Again, I have seen no valid public explanation as to why this can't happen. Thank you for your time.

**From:** jeff.steele@wisc.edu <jeff.steele@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Do not delay BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Jeffery Steele  
**Address:** 522 McCormick Avenue, Madison, WI 53704  
**Phone:** 920-382-9773  
**Email:** [jeff.steele@wisc.edu](mailto:jeff.steele@wisc.edu)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I have been a frequent Madison Metro Transit user since I've lived in Madison for the better part of a decade. I wanted to voice my dissatisfaction with any delay to the BRT system in particular the hurdles proposed by Alder Abbas. As our City grows exponentially, Madison cannot afford to wait any longer for fast, efficient public transit. BRT should be designed to serve the main corridors and arteries of Madison in order to serve the highest population centers possible. As the City expands and grows, there will be opportunities to expand this serve into other areas. Also, please do not put the interests of a few State St businesses before the residents of Madison. Further delays to this proposal will affect its implementation.

**From:** Elizabeth Falkos <bdjfalkos@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** 2022 Budget, Funding for MPD

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Mayor:

As you prepare for the final vote on the 2022 Budget, **please vote NO on item #11 in the Operating Budget** which seeks to take \$82,000 from the already stretched Madison Police Department for the CARES team.

Yes, I support the work of the CARES team. Yes, I support work for greater racial justice.

BUT, WE CAN NOT CONTINUE TO WHITTLE AWAY AT FUNDING FOR THE MPD. We need appropriate funding for the MPD to fight the rise in crime we are seeing along with funding the many community-based policing programs that make the MPD a leader in policing. As Alder Harrington-McKinney has stated, we need to honor the direction Police Chief Barnes is leading us. That is why he was hired.

We already covered this funding issue in the October Finance Committee meeting. Fire Chief Davis clearly stated that we are still in the CARES pilot program and the MFD is not ready for the funds to expand the CARES team yet. Many Alders and residents spoke up against taking funding from the MPD and it was voted down. We already sat through hours of testimony on this topic and it does not need to be hashed out again.

Thank you,  
Beth Falkos  
District 19

**From:** reporting@cityofmadison.com <reporting@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Monroe street Library Hours

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** John Merrill  
**Address:** 711 S Orchard St unit 302, Madison, WI 53715  
**Phone:** 608-283-6326

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I urge you to support the Library Board's decision to return the Monroe Street Library to 5 days a week hours. For those of us living in the neighborhood the branch is an invaluable resource for books and so much more.

**From:** ilana.bryne@gmail.com <ilana.bryne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] proposed BRT amendment - opposition

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Dylan Bryne  
**Address:** 20 N Baldwin St, Madison, WI 53703  
**Email:** [ilana.bryne@gmail.com](mailto:ilana.bryne@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Alders,

We have been in the planning process of BRT for over two years now. This last-minute grab for power is pathetic. The Madison public needs our public busses to run down State St and that should not be derailed by private business owners' dreams of using public space as private outdoor retail and restaurant space for weekend tourists. Vote against any delay or change to the process and give us the bus lines we need!

**From:** Bill Connors <bill@smartgrowthgreatermadison.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please Adopt Budget Amendment re Alternative BRT Routes through Downtown

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders:

I am writing to express Smart Growth's support for the proposed amendment to the capital budget regarding alternative routes for the bus rapid transit (BRT) east-west line through Downtown Madison (amendment #15 under item #1 on the agenda). Smart Growth supports BRT, but we also believe the route of the BRT line through Downtown should be the one that is best for the economic vitality of Downtown.

Many people had a reasonable expectation that after the local preferred alternative was submitted to the federal government, without any debate, there would be a robust discussion of the best route for the BRT line through Downtown. That discussion has been stymied.

Yet while the discussion was stymied, changes were made to the BRT line route which were not part of the local preferred alternative submitted to the federal government. Clearly, changes to the BRT line route were and are permitted after the local preferred alternative was submitted.

Smart Growth supports the proposed amendment to the capital budget regarding the east-west BRT line route because it will enable a robust discussion regarding the best route for the BRT line through Downtown. Our members are eager to participate in this discussion.

Smart Growth urges you to adopt amendment #15 to the capital budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Connors  
Executive Director  
Smart Growth Greater Madison, Inc.  
608-228-5995 (mobile)  
[www.smartgrowthgreatermadison.com](http://www.smartgrowthgreatermadison.com)

25 W Main St - 5th Floor, Suite 33  
Madison, WI 53703

**From:** linda faris <bounceonce50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:**

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support Operating Budget amendments 6 and 11.

**From:** reporting@cityofmadison.com <reporting@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Tonight's Budget Hearing

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Marianne Genter  
**Address:** 490 orchard drive , Madison, Wi 53711

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Please do not support additional cuts to MPD.

I support Capital amendments 12 and 13 and I do not support Operating amendment 11. We need to maintain adequate staffing and funding for the police department. It is already concerning the number of times MPD can only respond to emergency calls.

I have resided in Madison since 1981.

From: BP Dane County <bpsa20pac@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:43 AM

To: rdistrict1@cityofmadison.com; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Conklin, Nikki <district09@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Martin, Arvina <district11@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Foster, Grant <district15@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Myadze, Charles <district18@cityofmadison.com>; Furman, Keith <district19@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Hart, David <dahiii@hotmail.com>; Kirbie Mack <kirbiemack@gmail.com>

Subject: Chief Shon Barnes 2022 Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison Common Council Members, the attached letter is from Blacks for Political and Social Action of Dane County (BPSA) in support of Chief Barnes' budget request for 2022.

We appreciate your "yes" vote and commitment to the Black community.

Theresa Sanders, Secretary  
BPSA



Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of Blacks for Political and Social Action of Dane County, Inc., we write not to oppose any particular action or amendment on your agenda. Rather, we write to support Chief Barnes and ask that you give him the tools he needs to do his job.

In the hiring of the new Police Chief, we asked that they be allowed to assess the police department's needs (specifically, training) in order to provide safety, while not over-policing and enforcing Black and Brown neighborhoods in Madison.

We are encouraged to hear Chief Barnes acknowledge that racism plays a central role in not only the disparities that exist in the criminal justice system, but also in the enforcement of laws. We are also encouraged to see him in the community making authentic connections to marginalized populations.

We understand that there are three amendments you will consider tonight. Specifically:

- Amendment 17: which reduces funding for the pre-service academy by \$164,000. This reduction would adversely affect the pre-service academy of 3 recruits.
- Amendment 18: which reduces funding for the pre-service academy by \$510,000. This reduction adversely affects 8 pre-service academy recruits.
- Amendment 19: reduces the funding for the Police Innovation, data, and Reform Director in the amount of \$121,000. This would adversely affect the Chief's programmatic thrust.

These kinds of cuts would place this Chief in an untenable situation. What is more, you would be treating this Chief differently than his predecessor.

While we do not support or oppose any specific legislation. We do support, however, Chief Barnes and his proposed budget.

Sincerely,

**ATTY. DAVID HART**

President

**KIRBIE MACK**

Vice President

**RAY ALLEN**

Treasurer

**From:** Jeannette LeZaks <jlezaks@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:56 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Opposition to Capital Budget Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing in opposition to the capital budget amendment 15 that would halt, or possibly permanently stop, the progress being made for Madison's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. I am writing as an advocate for curbing the City's carbon emissions -- my experience stems from working in the energy field for over 15 years, working at a local nonprofit with a mission to accelerate climate solutions for everyone. I also am co-chair of the Sustainable Madison Committee, although I write today entirely from my individual perspective.

The BRT development process has been underway for multiple years and with considerable input from [the public](#), city staff, and [Common Council](#). Halting that progress essentially erases those efforts and puts in jeopardy the feedback that the City received to make an improved transit system, something that is increasingly needed in Madison to more equitably serve all Madison residents. Additional implications of delay include the potential loss of funding or increased overall project costs.

The City of Madison has ambitious goals to reduce overall carbon emissions, of which transportation comprises a significant part. As I write this, global leaders are meeting in Glasgow discussing global solutions that we need to urgently enact. And here in Madison, we have the opportunity to support a cleaner transportation network that will reduce our reliance on single occupancy vehicles and continue the ambitious pursuit of an equitable and sustainable Madison.

I urge you not to let this opportunity slip away-- please join me in opposition to Amendment 15.

Sincerely,

Jeannette LeZaks

**From:** gracehasler@gmail.com <gracehasler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Grace Hasler  
**Address:** 350 S Hamilton #203, Madison, WI 53703-4186  
**Phone:** 608-334-4900  
**Email:** [gracehasler@gmail.com](mailto:gracehasler@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

I want to lend my support to creating a better plan for BRT that would eliminate the need for buses on the square and on State Street to create a walkable, more pedestrian friendly and exciting place to shop, eat and enjoy this iconic treasure and our treasured Square.

From: Peyton David <peyday44@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:31 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Written opposition: Item 2, Common Council Meeting 11/9/21

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon:

I write today to oppose to the increase of 84 million to the Madison Police Department. The community has spoken loudly this past year about how funding the police detracts marginalized communities. It is beyond clear the Madison Police does not serve and protect Black and Brown communities. Continued funding for the police without any actual crime prevention is not working. Our community deserves a chance to live, resources and spaces where people, youth can thrive and have an opportunity of something greater than dying.

Wisconsin incarcerates Black men at the highest rate in the country. Adding more funding for police is taking away from the community. Policing is part of the problem. More police cannot be part of the solution.

I implore you to oppose this funding and listen to the community.

Sincerely,

Peyton David

Data and References:

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**From:** Sallie Anna Steiner <salli3anna@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:34 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Southside-to-Downtown commuter supporting bus progress

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Alders:

I am a daily Southside-to-Downtown bus commuter writing in support of the Bus Rapid Transit program and the Metro Network Redesign. I am disappointed that my alder Sheri Carter's position on this issue is not aligning with her own constituents' best interests.

I ride daily from Fish Hatchery and Catalpa to my job on University Ave. Because my work requires frequent coordination with Overture Center, at least once a week I also take the bus from University Ave to State Street and then from State Street back down to South Madison. The opposition of Downtown Madison Inc. and associated businesses to this project is truly mind-boggling to me since I am frequently on State Street--I used to live near there and I enjoy returning, and in addition to working there I also frequent State Street shops and bars and restaurants (although lately not ones with the "Stop BRT" signs in their windows). Good bus service on State Street makes my trips to the district possible.

As it is most days, my #4 bus this morning was packed with Southside riders heading to the hospital district, to downtown, to the university, and to points east, west, and north. We may not have a lot of money or power, but we are stakeholders in this issue and we deserve representation and results from the Common Council on bussing.

Thank you for your consideration and your work.

Sincerely,  
Sallie Anna Steiner  
1118 Catalpa Circle

**From:** Paul Skidmore <paulskidmore@tds.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:43 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Conklin, Nikki <district09@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

**Please vote NO on item #11 in the Operating Budget** which seeks to take \$82,000 from the Madison Police Department and give add it the CARES team.

I have always supported a full spectrum of public safety programs that include violence prevention, interruption, suppression, and reconciliation. I support the work of the CARES team and Focused Interruption. I also support the various restorative justice programs that are in place. However, these efforts will never remove or replace the need for a well trained and equipped police force that can end any level of threat in our neighborhoods.

We can-not continue to gradually defund the Madison Police Department and divert the funds to other public safety programs that can-not protect our citizens from violent crime. We need appropriate funding for the MPD to fight the rise in crime we are seeing and to continue their community-based policing programs that make the MPD a leader in public safety. As Alder Harrington-McKinney has stated, we need to honor the direction Police Chief Barnes is leading us. That is why he was hired.

Madison Fire Chief Davis clearly stated that the CARES team is still a pilot program and that the MFD is not ready for the funds to expand the CARES team yet. Many Alders and residents spoke up against taking funding from the MPD and it was voted down. We already sat through hours of testimony on this topic and it does not need to be hashed out again.

Please vote no on item #11 in the Operating Budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Skidmore  
9<sup>th</sup> District Resident

**From:** Bonnie Roe <bonnie.roe@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:43 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Barnes, Shon F <SBarnes@cityofmadison.com>; Patterson, John <JPatterson@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose any cuts to MPD...and other amendment thoughts

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Thank you for your work on the budget and for taking the concerns of your constituents into account.

I am against any cuts to the Madison Police Department at this time, as they are in a staffing crisis, struggling to fulfill hard staffing minimums across the city on a regular basis.

**I oppose Operating Amendment #11 and Capital Amendment #8**, as Chief Davis made it very clear at the October 25 Finance Committee meeting that any increase in funding at this time is **premature**. They will be in a better place to assess their needs a year from now. Why Alder Furman and the other sponsors don't understand this and bring it up for discussion yet again, I do not understand. This discussion was had two weeks ago.

Here is a link to that segment of the meeting, starting at 4:28:14 below:

<https://youtu.be/LPd7YNsBCzU>

I support Amendment 8, as gun violence reduction is a huge priority to me. I would, however, prefer to see state and federal grant funding for this initiative, as there is a lot of it out there and our City budget is tight.

**I support Capital Amendment #12** to put MPD's needed evidence storage building back on the horizon list. Currently the evidence facilities are scattered throughout the city and nearing capacity, and some facilities lack generators, causing problems if the power goes out and evidence begins to thaw out, like it did after the MG&E explosion and resulting power outage. Having one central storage facility would be more effective and efficient.

**I support Capital Amendment #13** to provide police squads for the Town of Madison attachment.

**I support Capital Amendment #3** to provide a Northside Mobile Neighborhood Center. This is a great idea that just makes sense!

**I support Capital Amendment #15**. It is only common sense that the Common Council should vote and accept all of the BRT routes before construction begins on this huge project.

**I urge you to oppose any amendments from the floor that would take any funding from MPD. We need to give Chief Barnes the funding he needs to accomplish his plans and prioritize public safety for all in 2022.**

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership,

Bonnie Roe  
District 10  
608-239-1748

**From:** Gracie Regala <gregala721@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Common council meeting today

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear members of the council,

It is extremely important that you support amendment 11 on the operating budget. \$82,000 need to go to the community NOT to the police department that has consistently shown it is not for the people. Black and brown people are systematically abused by the police and have continued to be. Funneling more money into the department is unfair and disgusting. Just YESTERDAY police members maced and abused students at East High School. The police presence did not help the situation but rather hurt it exponentially. Please take care of our community and work to defund the police.

Please help,

Gracie Regala  
Community member

**From:** Tropic Jewel <tropicjewel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support of Alternate Routes for BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

We are unable to attend the meeting today but wanted to voice our support of Alder Abbas' Amendment 15 to item 1 of the agenda.

We, like many, understand the need for a more accessible bus route to help get people downtown. However, we too, like many, do not see the benefits of having it disturb the pedestrian mall that is State Street. Shifting it over to another nearby street as an alternative to State Street is the best decision for all.

We have been doing business on State Street for over 30 years and have fought hard to stay open thru the many turmoils of the past 20 months. Encouraging people to walk down State Street has been essential for our success, with events like the Madison Night Market and Maxwell Street Days positively impacting us in SO many ways. Sales and exposure are what we needed and events where people safely occupied the street have saved us. We need MORE of such events, not fewer. We need to encourage the notion of meandering down the street to grab coffee and lunch and shop for gifts or 'a treat after finishing midterms' [something sweet that we hear quite often.] Frequent bus stops that halt patrons' ability to move about the street do not encourage that. The word 'Rapid' should not exist on a street where we want people to enjoy a leisurely afternoon of strolling around. But an alternate route for such a system will ultimately help more people enjoy the area!

The 'heart of the city' is often what State Street is referred to as, and as long-time contributing members of this street, we have to say, our heart hurts. An efficient bus system to get people down here to the area is such a worthy cause that will benefit many. But having that system hinder the pedestrians that are imperative to our heartbeat is a mistake. Please find an alternate route for the BRT and help State Street thrive as a pedestrian mall.

Shelby Grote and Lauren Jensen

Tropic Jewel  
449 State Street #F [upstairs!]  
Madison, WI 53703  
608.256.4442  
[www.tropicjewelmadison.com](http://www.tropicjewelmadison.com)  
M-closed, T-Th 11-6,  
Fri-Sat 11-6:30, Sun 12-5  
Follow: Facebook & Instagram!

**From:** Brian Wuethrich <b\_r\_wuethrich@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:04 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose Capital Operating Ammendment 15- Hindering BRT prograss

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

I am writing this email to urge you to oppose the proposed amendment 15 to the Capital Operating Budget. Madison needs BRT and we need it NOW!

Stop kicking projects that will help serve low income and marginalized groups down the road, and actually do something to help them now! Stop kicking projects that fight climate change and make Madison greener down the road! Actually accomplish things! The city has been studying a proposed BRT system since at least 2013, and now that we are finally getting close to implementing something, obstruction by private buisness owners and Council President Abbas. Sounds a lot like what happened with potential solutions to our homeless problem.

Delaying BRT funding puts the entire project at risk of loosing Federal and State Funds that have allready been approved. Who knows what future state and federal administrations would do regarding transportation funding? Remember the Amtrak service we were supposed to be getting 10+ years ago? Well, I'm still waiting to be able to take the train. This is whats going to happen with BRT if you delay action.

It seems that the Metro network redesign and the BRT are getting conflated by certain members of the council, the Network Redesign is still in being designed and will be put forward to the TPPB and the Transportation Committee, and then the City Council for approval. Adjustments can and are still being made, so why is this ammendment necessary, except to try and kill BRT?

Why do some vocal private buisness owners on State Street get to have so much sway over the public right of way? I feel they are being incredibly short sighted, as BRT will bring more people and potential customers to their front doors. How is that bad for their business? The most good for the most people is how we should be using public spaces. This city needs more and better public transportation to get people to places they want to go. BRT on accomplishes this.

Vote no on Ammendment 15!

Brian Wuethrich  
District 6 resident

**From:** Melissa Huggins <huggins530@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:28 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Amendment 15 is Contrary to the City's Commitment to Racial Equity and Social Justice

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Moving the Bus Rapid Transit route off of State Street and the Capitol Square will be at the expense of transit riders, in particular the low income, BIPOC, and people living with a disability. The property owners, residents, and businesses pushing for this change want you to believe they were not consulted (they were), BRT will ruin State Street (it won't), it is not that big a change (it is), and their voices are more important than the thousands of community members who have engaged in the planning process since 2013.

The BRT route is the result of a comprehensive amount of input gathered over the last three years and the Common Council voted to approve the route twice. This is the route the FTA expects the City Madison to implement with millions of dollars allocated by the Federal Government.

We are a mere 17 months out from George Floyd's death and despite a commitment by the city, the community, and business leaders to equity and social justice, it is business as usual in Madison – the needs of the many and the under-represented thrown under the bus for the needs of the few and the privileged.

Melissa Huggins, AICP

From: Rickey, Al <arickey@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:29 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Bottari, Mary <MBottari@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: CARES unit expansion

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Madison Alders:

I have taken the time to ride along with the CARE team and speak with its members. It is clear they are dedicated and good choices for the program.

It is also clear they are just beginning and have less than 90 days actual operating experience. They have no clear calls for service picture and it is far too early to expand at this point. I understand there is at least one other non-profit street team in Madison doing very similar work as well.

MFD management concurs with the this and expressed that at the recent Executive Budget meeting. Gifting taxpayer dollars without analysis defies fiscal common sense. The new funding effort also seems to be forced upon MFD and ignores the Chief's sphere of control. It also appears as a "top down effort" on the part of the Common Council intruding on the authority of Chief Davis.

Responsible spending should be engaged and scrutinized. I ask you to abandon this uniformed effort to expand the CARES unit at this time.

Thank You,

Al Rickey  
District 18

**From:** Ananda Deacon <adeacon@freedomactionnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:43 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** karissa.smaglick@risewisconsin.org  
**Subject:** Commentary Opposing Operating Budget - Item 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello alders,

My name is Ananda (she/her) and I am a local organizer in the community. I have been gathering feedback from folks who are opposed to the operating budget as it stands, specifically all the money that is set to be given to the police. I am personally in opposition and have already registered as such, but the following is a quote from Karissa Smaglick, a Madison community member, who also wanted to give testimony but not speak at the meeting:

"I currently work as a Care Coordinator in the Children Come First program. The number of times I write a crisis plan for children, and almost every one of them request police to NOT be contacted in the event of an emergency because they don't want to be retraumatized. That should be telling enough. This \$84M can be used for community based programs that benefit children and families of color, people who need mental health services, employees who work in mental health, public housing, utility assistance, building more childcare centers, literally anything but the police."

Best,

Ananda

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** No more funding for crooked cops

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello again alders,

I know I've written to you a couple times through this budget process, but I must once again urge you, ahead of tonight's meeting, to stop throwing money at a violent gang. A violent gang that just yesterday escalated a situation at East High school and deployed chemical weapons against minors. A violent gang that several weeks ago endangered civilians on State Street when they shot **\*each other\*** while attempting to murder yet another Black man. A violent gang that last winter, held unhoused neighbors outside in a fenced in, concrete parking lot with no access to essential medications and prevented medics from assisting in a life-threatening situation. A violent gang that has no obligation to protect human lives in our city, faces no accountability for their murders, and by design can only react to dangerous situations after the fact. Our city faces an epidemic of violence, and policing is the root cause.

I'm very concerned about the future. Fascist candidates across the country made record gains on school boards last week, while world leaders meet to carve up what's left of the planet before it withers away, leaving all of us common folks to choke on water polluted with drilling chemicals. Our country is in a dire state. There are two paths forward: One is a path of escalation and accelerationism spearheaded by an expanded police state; foreign corporations buying out police to destroy our country's natural splendor; cities sending cops after the homeless to chase them from park to park until they die out. The other is one where we cooperate with one another, where we use the resources we have to uplift the most marginalized, and in so doing, build a community resilient to the fascist tide rising around our the small blue dot that is Madison, and resilient to the slow collapse of global supply chains and the climate.

Stop treating this as a culture war sideshow. Stop throwing money at cops just to spite those of us with empathy for Americans slain by police. Stop denying essential services to those who need it. Take the situation we're in seriously, before we're all fucked.

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips  
[They/Them](#)  
Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**From:** Linda Ketcham <linda@justdane.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support of Capital Budget Amendment 4

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

For nearly two decades Mentoring Positives, under the leadership of Will Green, has been a positive force for stability and change in the Darbo Drive Community. Mentoring Positives has had an incredibly positive impact on the neighborhood, including the children and youth living in the neighborhood. Mentoring Positives has a well developed, long standing and inspiring vision for the Darbo Drive Neighborhood. Within Darbo Drive there is a growing and vibrant African immigrant population, neighbors who are an integral part of the community. Mentoring Positives and the African Center for Community Development intend to collaborate to build economic empowerment and wealth in this District, supporting all of the residents in Darbo Drive. I am writing to ask that you support Capital budget Amendment #4:

"If the City's purchase of 3030 Darbo Drive for the proposed Salvation Army redevelopment does not occur by mid-year 2023, then the \$2.5 million of federal funds will be made available to assist Mentoring Positive and African Center for Community Development in purchasing other available parcels in the East Washington Avenue-Darbo Drive area for use in supporting efforts by these organizations to serve the neighborhood and its residents. Funds may be granted to acquire and/or improve one or more parcels in the area or, alternatively, used by the City to acquire such parcels for lease or sale to a community agency. In allocating these funds, the City will give priority to uses by organizations that have established relationships with, or experience serving, residents within the Darbo neighborhood, or members of marginalized communities that are represented in the neighborhood. The purchased property could be used as community space, e.g., a community center, and/or to house agency activities or programming that support neighborhood residents, and underserved or marginalized populations more generally."

The original intent of the allocated funds was to support the vision of Mentoring Positives. Your support of this Amendment

will ensure that funds originally intended to support the vision of Mentoring Positives in the Darbo Drive neighborhood will be available even if the Salvation Army is unable to proceed with the sale of their building. The Darbo Drive neighborhood has waited long enough for this vision and redevelopment. Mentoring Positives has been the leader in this area, Will Green and his team have done the legwork, the community building and organizing and have the trust of the Darbo Drive Neighborhood. We hope that their vision continues to be supported. Please vote yes on Capital Budget Amendment 4.

Sincerely,

Linda Ketcham (she, her, hers)  
Executive Director  
Madison-area Urban Ministry, Inc. (dba JustDane)  
2115 S. Park St.  
Madison, WI 53713  
608-256-0906  
She, her, hers

**From:** Daniel Levitin <dnlevitin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Executive Capital and Operating Budgets

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello.

I am emailing to indicate my support for amendment 11 to the Executive Operating Budget. I think it's very important to move money toward mental health services, and away from punitive measures.

I also wish to state my opposition to approving additional funding on new police technology or police cars. Ramping up police funding is not a way to keep our communities safe.

Thank you,

Daniel Levitin  
225 E. Lakelawn Pl.  
Madison

**From:** diane morgenthaler <d.morgen@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Amendment 15 to Capital Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm reaching out to ask for your support of Amendment 15 to the Capital Budget regarding the BRT options and decision. I agree with the need for our City to enhance and improve transportation systems and options but strongly believe that there are alternatives to what has been put forward by the Mayor and staff that will better serve our community. Specifically routes other than on State Street and Capitol Square.

I appreciate the Council leadership who put forward this amendment and the opportunity for further community input and engagement that can result from a pause in the project.

We have one opportunity to get this massive project right for our community, please support this amendment and allow the conversation to continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Morgenthaler, CDME  
District 10

From: Josh Olson <jo.olson03@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:19 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Common Council 11/9 - Support of BRT in Capital Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,

My name is Josh Olson. I am a recently graduated engineer who studied at UW-Madison and absolutely fell in love with this city. In fact, I discovered more of it than my fellow alumni because I was an avid Metro user. I am in full support of the planned budget for Bus Rapid Transit, as proposed, and I believe the process should not be halted as some alders have suggested.

...

I think BRT is a critical investment in our city that should be implemented as soon as possible, focusing on ridership, that can serve as a model for future investment in public transit. As someone who comes from an entirely different state, but WANTS TO STAY HERE, I think it is important to recognize how much draw Madison has as a city. Because Madison is growing so fast, we need to develop a public transit system to handle that growth, and that is accomplished when people would forgo cars to use the system. This is accomplished by focusing on ridership.

BRT (as is planned) should focus on things that would benefit riders and give other types of commuters reasons to take the bus. The dedicated bus lanes, signal priority, and the popular routes (because of the destinations) are awesome ways to show off how great it is to take the bus. However, the most important parts of BRT are the frequency of service and the large bus size.

Riders like me care the most about two things: how quickly can I get to my destination and will I be able to sit on my commute. By directing the dedicated BRT buses to these few, popular and densely populated routes, we can have people reaching their destinations faster and with comfort that promotes more ridership. I want to be able to brag to my friends that the bus gets me to work in the same time, but I can also read during my commute. I can't do that (and I am a less satisfied rider) if my commute is slowed down because I missed my bus and the next one doesn't come for 20 minutes.

When alders suggest that we expand coverage at the expense of bus frequency, we end up playing a lose-lose game. Some people now get to ride the bus, but the bus is slower. A slower bus attracts less people to ride. Some people get mad we spent a ton of money on this project, and they call BRT a failure.

Ultimately, for BRT to be a success, we need more people who aren't currently riding the bus to be incentivized to ride it. When I can brag to my friends about how great BRT is, and when they experience it themselves and make the switch, we have succeeded with this project. If people continue to ask me "why do you take the bus?" and treat as if OTHER people (and not them) should use it, we have lost.

With success, I would love to expand BRT to other areas of the city. But it needs to cement its status as effective first. Additionally, the city should instead be promoting more housing options along the BRT routes as an alternative to expansion access. BRT works even better if the areas around it are densely

populated, so y'all should approve more non-traditional zoning to allow for more abundant and affordable housing options so everyone can ride BRT.

Thank you,  
Josh Olson

**From:** roadtrip91@charter.net <roadtrip91@charter.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:23 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I urge you to support Amendment 15 on the capital budget at your meeting tonight.

Bob Power  
10 Maple Wood Lane #2  
Madison, WI 53704

**From:** Ryan Hartkopf <ryanhartkopf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:28 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** I support additional funding for CARES program

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders,

I want to voice my support for the CARES program, and specifically for the Operating Budget amendments expanding the CARES pilot and adding ambulance service at Station #14 on the East Side.

I believe strongly in providing expanded mental health services to residents of Madison both as a humane and effective approach to the mental health challenges that our residents face, as well as a cost-saving measure that will reduce expensive and dangerous encounters with police.

Please support these amendments when they come up for a vote.

Thank you,

Ryan Hartkopf  
6633 Raymond Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** mnshahan@gmail.com <mnshahan@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:28 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** [All Alders] Agenda Item 1, Amendment 15

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Mark Shahan

**Address:** 607 Piper Drive, Madison, WI 53711

**Email:** [mnshahan@gmail.com](mailto:mnshahan@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Dear Alders,

I strongly oppose Amendment 15 to the Capital Budget Agenda Item 1 and urge you to vote no.

Coverage in the Wisconsin State Journal would have one believe that the purpose of Amendment 15 is to better serve low income households with transit. Yet, the only alternative mentioned in Amendment 15 is for alternative routes around the outer ring and off State Street. I fail to see how this alternative better serves low income households or for that matter, how any change to the current proposed BRT route will improve service to low income households significantly.

The real purpose of this amendment seems to be moving the BRT off State Street for which the sponsors are willing to risk the entire BRT project. If they want the BRT off state street, sponsors could put forth a resolution requiring removal of the BRT from State Street without risking the whole project.

The sponsors should be careful, they might get what they ask for. High capacity transit like BRT stimulates development along its route. This will mean the development would be projected to occur along West Washington Avenue and the outer loop instead of State Street and the Capital Square.

Sponsors also would require Staff to submit a report to the Council on modifications to non-BRT routes when the Transit Network Redesign project is already working on the non-BRT modifications. Worse, the Transit Network Redesign project would seem to be prohibited from expending or encumbering funds to provide the information the sponsors request. So how is it Staff are supposed to develop the information sponsors request for the report when they cannot spend the required funds?

Sponsors say they want answers and have been ignored. No, the planners did not ignore you you were heard. The planners just disagree with you.

I have served for over 20 years on City transportation committees and commissions. I have seen how this city has struggled to implement a high capacity transit system for decades. Now that we are on the cusp of succeeding, this amendment creates an unacceptable risk to finally making high capacity transit a reality. Vote no on amendment 15.

Mark N. Shahan  
District 10  
607 Piper Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Rachel Tatge <rtatge@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:49 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Please Approve the Amendment Requiring Council Approval of BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to ask that the city council approve the amendment requiring city council approval of the bus rapid transit route before money can be spent to build it.

As someone who went to school at UW-Madison, worked in downtown Madison for years, and currently works at UW-Madison in the Office of Admissions & Recruitment, I think it is crucial that State Street become a true pedestrian mall. This is critical for the current and future community, the university and the downtown Madison and campus businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Tatge

**From:** Emma Stepien <stepien.emma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:51 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Carmelo Alfano <calfano@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Capital Budget and Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Common Council,

I am writing to express my support for Alder Abbas' amendment 15 to the 2022 Capital Budget, allowing the potential for route adjustments while BRT design moves forward.

My name is Emma Stepien. I'm a lifelong Wisconsinite who moved to Madison 14 years ago and am proud to call it home. As someone who doesn't own a car, I have relied on Metro Transit throughout my time in Madison and recognize the need for improvement with our current system. While I am excited about the city's efforts to make improvements via BRT and the Transit Network Redesign (I mention both as they are inherently connected), I feel that the direction in which they are heading is not beneficial to our community.

Favoring a ridership model means that the reduced service many residents are currently experiencing will only continue. While the Mayor touts "front-door access" as the goal of BRT and the Transit Network Redesign, many of our residents will now have to walk further from their origin to catch a bus and make multiple transfers to arrive at their destination. Instead of front door access to places like the Overture Center, why are we not considering our neighborhoods, especially those that are already underserved? What about the front door to daycare centers, grocery stores, social services, and affordable housing? I respectfully ask the council to consider how the current plan is equitable.

Furthermore, I feel it should be noted that BRT routes and the Transit Network Redesign are based on ridership data generated by a Metro system that has always favored middle class neighborhoods and workers—otherwise known as "choice riders". What about riders who don't have the luxury of making that choice?

As someone who lives and works downtown, I feel strongly that the BRT routing on State Street and the Capitol Square needs to be reconsidered to provide more options for the future of our downtown, creating a more fluid, welcoming, and inclusive environment. This is not to say that bus riders aren't welcome downtown, but to preserve the sense of culture and place that is unique to Madison. One of my most troubling issues with the LPA is the need to reroute the buses 20% of the year (72 days) for special events that typically occur on evenings and weekends. BRT routes are supposed to operate like light rail, on a fixed system, for efficiency. Rerouting already causes major delays, missed transfers, and general confusion. The Mayor and Transportation seem to have forgotten that there are individuals—like me—who work non-traditional hours and weekends. Why should we have to struggle with unreliable service when there is a simple solution of a minor route adjustment? Do our lives and families not matter as much as those who take the bus to their 9-5 job?

Throughout the course of this project, I have been disappointed with the poor communication, unanswered questions, twisted information, and flat out lies. Public engagement meetings have not

been a true forum for concerns and questions to be addressed, with both the presenters and moderators filtering information in the Q&A, refusing to answer questions, and failing to remain unbiased when speaking. The Mayor's claims of consulting with business owners about their concerns simply is not true.

Yes, we are at a point in the project where a change would incur a delay. No, the project would not need to be entirely restarted due to select route adjustments. We are at this point because the Mayor and Transportation decided to push forward with the LPA that was presented to you, the common council, as a "concept" and unanimously approved without discussion as you were led to believe changes could be made in the future. Will a delay jeopardize federal funding and the entire project? Based on my communications with the FTA and research done by DMI on other cities that were recommended for funding through a Small Starts grant and experienced delays, Madison will not lose their funding nor the project. With this being said, why are we not placing greater value on taking some time to create a better Metro system for all?

The Mayor and Transportation have repeatedly stated that once the East-West BRT is implemented in 2024, there will no longer be buses running between the 400 block and 600 block of State Street. The removal of buses from this area, or any area, is a matter which the common council has the authority to approve, not the Mayor nor Transportation. Transportation should not be planning so far into the future when the council still needs to vote upon changes to the project, such as station citing or runningway alignment, and the Transit Network Redesign is still being determined. Transportation should not be pushing the council to vote one way or the other, stating that we are too far along in the process for changes when they are the reason we have gotten to this point. Council members, I stress that you have the authority to make the best decisions for Madison based on feedback from your constituents.

Council members, I ask that you please consider how the currently proposed BRT routing and Transit Network Redesign will impact your district, your neighboring districts, and the community at large. The disagreement on downtown routing is distracting from the bigger problem that our community needs reliable, timely access to Metro from their homes, jobs, and essential services. This isn't simply a business issue or a State Street issue. Our downtown is here for all of Madison to enjoy, and the reduction in bus routes is a community-wide issue. It seems that Madison is simply moving forward without thinking forward.

Thank you for your time and for your hard work and dedication to our community.

Sincerely,  
Emma Stepien

From: Dave Glomp <dbg2847@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:51 PM  
To: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Personal Input on Amendments to both the Madison Capital and Operating Budgets being discussed on Tuesday November 9, 2021

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Dear Mayor and City Alders-

My name is David Glomp, a 50+ year citizen of Madison, Wisconsin. I reside at 1705 Redwood Lane, Madison, WI.53711, in Aldermanic District 20. Although I am unable to personally attend and testify at the Council Meeting tonight, I wanted to share my thoughts on several amendments to both the Madison Capital and Operating Budgets, specifically affecting the MPD budget. I am a longtime Madison Public Safety advocate.

First of all let me state for the record that I am very concerned about the Budgets impacting the Madison Police Department in terms of both staffing and Operations. I am concerned that not a single Alder, nor the Mayor introduced anything into the Budgets themselves or as Amendments that increased either, in the next budget year. I have been consistent in my recent year's Budget testimony's, suggesting that the goal of our city should be that we have and maintain a minimum of 2 officers per 1,000 people in our population. This would put us in line with other cities our size and demographics across Wisconsin and the country. We would need an additional 45 officers to reach that goal. I believe that the MPD is currently understaffed and under funded. This coming as shooting incidents, murders, drug trafficking, gang violence, auto thefts, burglary's and assaults have all skyrocketed. In my view, any cut to the current police Budget sets up a perfect storm that will not end well for our great city!

Having said that, I oppose the proposed Operating Budget Amendment #11 which would transfer \$82,000 from the MPD budget to the CARES program for two staff to operate the new CARES vehicle which is in the Capital Budget. So, I also oppose Amendment #8, for the vehicle purchase in the Capitol Budget. I oppose both of these because of input from The Madison Fire Department, Chief Davis who is an integral part of the CARES program who said that it is premature to expand that program until there is more analysis of it and it's successes and problems. To me, we must listen to those in charge and involved directly in that new program before expanding it. I applaud Chief Davis for his direct and candid statements!

I also would hope that the Council will support Capital Budget Amendment #12 which puts the creation of a Central Evidence Storage facility back on the drawing board for the future. As I understand It, it just authorizes its creation without allocating funding at this time. So I hope you can be supportive as we all know the importance of centralization an having systems that will insure the safe storage of evidence for long periods of time in order to solve and prosecute crimes.

Finally, in another Budget issue, not related to the MPD, but to the new BRT(Bus Rapid Transit) portion of the Budget. Please consider support for Capital Budget Amendment #15. This would require Council approval of all BRT Routes prior to expenditure or encumbrance of funds in 2022.

I thank you for your consideration of these comments and extend my thanks for the work each of you have done during this always difficult Budget Period.

Sincerely,

Dave Glomp

**From:** d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net <d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:53 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Madison BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Don Ferber  
**Address:** 4700 Allis Ave, Madison, WI 53716  
**Email:** [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Madison City Council,

The Four Lakes Group Sierra Club strongly favors the current BRT route proposal and urges the council to reject the proposed amendment which would add to the delays and put BRT funding at risk.

BRT has been under discussion for over a decade and a half in Madison. It has been studied, restudied and debated over this long period, and with extensive community input and the assistance of City staff, a route has finally been chosen to optimize transit times a critical issue for the BRT, provide access downtown and to State St that are prime destinations for both Madison residents and tourists, and is forward looking in terms of providing added equity for people with disabilities and low income residents who have to rely on transit.

Madison cannot once again be the victim of analysis paralysis or endless debates that don't result in action. The Common Council has already voted twice in favor of the current route, and to reverse direction in the last minute after the work has been put in and alterations made based on the current route would be ill-advised.

Madison suffered the severe disappointments of having high speed rail cancelled, and had Regional Transit Authority capability and finance mechanisms undermined by partisan interests. The long overdue BRT must be implemented as quickly as possible to avoid more delays and disappointment as well as risking significant federal funding.

Madison also has goals of reducing car traffic, including accidents and deaths, and lowering climate change emissions of which transportation is a significant part. Delaying the BRT would also conflict with achieving these goals, and add to staff burdens, as well as perhaps negatively impact the routes redesign process based on implementing the BRT. In addition, the East-West route is the first route to be implemented, but we also need to expedite adding a North-South route to better serve many most in need of enhanced bus service.

The concerns here seem to be over three blocks on State St. The current proposal would remove buses from another 3 blocks of State St, providing the opportunity to learn from and discuss any benefits and

downsides. This decision can be revisited in the future if there are problems or future changes are desired. But those larger discussions should not hold up the current BRT proposal.

We strongly urge the City Council to support the proposed current route and not add to costs, risks and inequities by further delaying implementation of the much-needed BRT system.

Don Ferber  
Conservation Chair  
Four Lakes Group Sierra Club

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:53 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Capitol Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders:

Re: Common Council Item #1 **67001 2022 Capital Budget**

I ask you to **SUPPORT** the following amendments:

- #12- Police Property and Evidence Facility
- #13- Police Vehicles for the Town of Madison
- #15-E-W Bus Rapid Transit

I support having the entire Council decide on where the BRT will go and where stops are sited. I support taking the BRT off of State Street as well.

I ask you to **OPPOSE** the following amendments:

#1- ADU Lending Program  
#8- CARES Vehicles

Thank you for your consideration.  
Jayne Meyer  
District 9

**From:** Anna Meyer <annapmeyer95@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** oppose delaying BRT in Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi Alders,

I am writing to urge you to **not** pass the proposed amendment (#15 on this pdf <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9942113&GUID=BBCD2639-4883-42C9-83DE-0126BDB7574C>) that would halt progress on the BRT plan. Madison needs BRT to remain livable. State Street already has buses and it works fine. I'm very concerned that delaying the project will jeopardize it, and we cannot let that happen. Please continue funding transit and alternatives to our car-heavy infrastructure, and do not pass the amendment.

Thank you,  
Anna Meyer  
Resident, district 6

**From:** Rhockers@aol.com <Rhockers@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:01 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Rita Hockers  
**Address:** 237 Division St, Madison, WI 53794  
**Phone:** 608-577-2569  
**Email:** [Rhockers@aol.com](mailto:Rhockers@aol.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please vote against BRT Please vote against BRT routes and stations on the Capitol routes and stations around the Capitol and top of State Street. I work downtown and have seen how the local businesses are already struggling to survive. This will just make less people want to go to State Street. Please route the BRT buses and stations on nearby streets.

**From:** Jayne Meyer <mshazmat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:02 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders:

Re: Common Council Item #2 **67496 2022 Operating Budget**

I ask you to **SUPPORT** the following amendments:

#8- Focused Interruption

I ask you to **OPPOSE** the following amendments:

#3- Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

#11- Cares Crisis Workers - Note that MFD Chief Davis clearly stated that additional CARES expenditures were premature.

I oppose the fee for recycling as well. The City should ensure basic services are covered, police, fire, streets, before going into some of the other programs.

I also ask that you oppose any amendments from the floor which would cut police department positions or support or negatively affect the work the MPD Chief Barnes would like to accomplish in 2022. The City made a commitment to him when he came aboard and let's support the hiring decision made by the Police and Fire Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jayne Meyer  
District 9

**From:** d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net <d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Madison BRT

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Don Ferber  
**Address:** 4700 Allis Ave, Madison, WI 53716  
**Email:** [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Madison City Council,

The Four Lakes Group Sierra Club strongly favors the current BRT route proposal and urges the council to reject the proposed amendment which would add to the delays and put BRT funding at risk.

BRT has been under discussion for over a decade and a half in Madison. It has been studied, restudied and debated over this long period, and with extensive community input and the assistance of City staff, a route has finally been chosen to optimize transit times a critical issue for the BRT, provide access downtown and to State St that are prime destinations for both Madison residents and tourists, and is forward looking in terms of providing added equity for people with disabilities and low income residents who have to rely on transit.

Madison cannot once again be the victim of analysis paralysis or endless debates that don't result in action. The Common Council has already voted twice in favor of the current route, and to reverse direction in the last minute after the work has been put in and alterations made based on the current route would be ill-advised.

Madison suffered the severe disappointments of having high speed rail cancelled, and had Regional Transit Authority capability and finance mechanisms undermined by partisan interests. The long overdue BRT must be implemented as quickly as possible to avoid more delays and disappointment as well as risking significant federal funding.

Madison also has goals of reducing car traffic, including accidents and deaths, and lowering climate change emissions of which transportation is a significant part. Delaying the BRT would also conflict with achieving these goals, and add to staff burdens, as well as perhaps negatively impact the routes redesign process based on implementing the BRT. In addition, the East-West route is the first route to be implemented, but we also need to expedite adding a North-South route to better serve many most in need of enhanced bus service.

The concerns here seem to be over three blocks on State St. The current proposal would remove buses from another 3 blocks of State St, providing the opportunity to learn from and discuss any benefits and

downsides. This decision can be revisited in the future if there are problems or future changes are desired. But those larger discussions should not hold up the current BRT proposal.

We strongly urge the City Council to support the proposed current route and not add to costs, risks and inequities by further delaying implementation of the much-needed BRT system.

Don Ferber  
Conservation Chair  
Four Lakes Group Sierra Club

**From:** Libbey Meister <libbey05@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:**

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am a city of Madison resident on the beautiful eastside. I am writing to share my opinion and hope you will consider my opinion when you vote on the budget.

I am in support of the Operating Budget amendments expanding the CARES pilot and adding ambulance service at Station #14 on the East Side.

I am in support of passage of any of the CARES amendments, in addition to the ambulance amendment.

Warmly,

Libbey Meister

**From:** Mara Eisch <eisch.mara@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:35 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Oppose budget items

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders and Mayor, I am writing to oppose Operating Budget Amendment 11 and Capital Budget item 8. We have neither the data nor the support of the fire dept to expand the emergency response team. This is simply an attack on our police department. I oppose any withdrawal of funds from the police budget.

I also oppose the recycling fee. Let's stop the fees.

**From:** Michelle Morrison <michelle.morrison@snc.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:18 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Metro and BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I urge you to pass the amendment put forward by Alder Abbas, Alder Carter, Alder Harrington-McKinney, Alder Myadze, and Alder Verveer. I believe it is amendment #15 to the City budget.

I am deeply concerned about the lack of transparency from Metro and the City on what's happening with both BRT and the network redesign.

Madison's bus system has long been in need of a massive overhaul but the current suggestions from Metro are a step in the wrong direction. How dare they massively reduce access to Madison's lower income neighborhoods! How dare they claim this new system and BRT are going to be more equitable and accessible when our lower income neighbors will have to walk even further in bad weather just to reach a bus stop. Even worse is the proposed elimination of all transfer points.

The existing transfer points are already inhumane. How can Metro so carelessly propose getting rid of them altogether?

How can Metro defend making it harder to reach a bus in the name of more frequent buses?

How can Metro defend the need for more frequent buses when they aren't extending the amount of time in the day bus service is offered - do 3rd shift workers not matter?

How can Metro move forward with a redesign and BRT when they aren't training their drivers to be less dangerous drivers - I have previously written to Alder Abbas about a time I fell on the bus and was injured because of bad driving and the driver barely cared, that after I couldn't afford to see a doctor and didn't know how to report the injury to the City. THAT needs to be fixed. Riders need to know how they can feel safe taking the bus and when they get hurt, they need to know how to report it.

How can Metro move forward with a redesign when they don't bother making current bus stops safe in all neighborhoods? Again, I've previously written to Alder Abbas about my experiences having to disembark on a very dangerously busy road and then climb through a large snow bank to get to a sidewalk.

Again, I urge you to consider just how badly it could hurt the citizens of this city to let the current Metro and BRT plans move forward. The Common Council needs to tap the brakes and force Metro and BRT planners to be more transparent and address citizen concerns. I would love a BRT but not at the expense of downtown events or even more important, at the expense of a Metro system that allows ALL my neighbors access to a bus.

Who cares about walking 5min further on State St when I'll have to walk a half hour just to get on the bus in the first place? What use is BRT to me when all it does is connect two dead malls?

I've seen many takes about how it's racist to be opposed to the BRT route, wanting to pause BRT for a moment, and to be opposed to the currently proposed Metro redesigns... surely it's far more racist for Metro to reduce bus access in predominantly BIPOC neighborhoods?

Why is no one concerned about the flagrant waste of taxpayer money that is the current route for BRT?!?! Why is it considered ok to waste millions more than necessary to build extra stations to accommodate rerouting the BRT line during massively popular events downtown. Surely it is simpler and makes more sense to just build fewer stations and put BRT on the cross streets to begin with. Wouldn't the City rather save a little money by putting BRT on the cross streets and then still earn all that tax revenue generated from events downtown? With BRT, would we even still be able to have things like: the farmer's market, Art Fair, Taste of Madison, Madison Night Market, and Ironman??

I would send this letter to the Mayor as well, but she seems to be unwilling to listen to anyone. It's disappointing, I'd had higher hopes for her as Mayor.

I am proud to be represented by Alder Abbas in this - I strongly support his amendment, I hope you vote to approve amendment #15 as well.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

A considered Eken Park constituent

-Michelle

**From:** Taylor Mcelligott <reverend.grimm@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:22 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT and Metro redesign concerns

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

First and foremost, thank you everyone for taking the time and consideration to review this letter amidst the countless you are no doubt receiving presently.

Now let's talk a bit about BRT and Madison metro. I have used the Madison Metro system since I moved to Madison in 2011. I would be lying if I said the current system is great or even good, but what the current system of buses offers people are a few things over the proposed changes Madison Metro has lined up.

First, the current system provides the transfer points. These are paradoxically listed on both maps, yet also somehow slated for removal. The parking provided at these locations is what allows commuters from more outlying areas reasonable access to the buses. I have heard concerns that not adopting the BRT model will leave people stranded at the open transfer points in the winter, but said parking also affords commuters a warmer, safer, and simpler place to wait for the arrival of their/her/his bus. Additionally, how are the open air transfer points only now posing a problem?

Next, the argument that the BRT models are more equitable is poorly supported when the city of Middleton is connected to either a 30-minute or 60-minute route while Fitchburg has significantly more restricted access to just a 60-minute route. The east side also shows more numerous and longer stretches of nonstop routes, which also will decrease functional access.

Lastly, increasing bus traffic down Williamson St/Jenifer St will significantly increase traffic congestion in that area. Those are both functionally two lane roads and suffer excessive traffic congestion as is. I used to live in the WilMar neighborhood, and buses can't guarantee a schedule when bumper to bumper traffic makes it take 20 minutes to get from Patterson to Blount.

I strongly encourage you, as alders, to force Madison Metro to slow down and review alternatives. While some may view this as time wasted or a delay on the project, I seriously question the validity of ridership data collected since 2019.

With respect and gratitude,  
Taylor Mcelligott

**From:** Dana Pellebon <dana.pellebon@thercc.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:30 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Letter to Common Council Regarding CDD Funds

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Attention Alders,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the following organizations:

Rape Crisis Center  
Urban Triage  
Literacy Network  
JustDane  
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services  
The Rainbow Project  
YWCA

Thank you,

**Dana Pellebon** (*she/her*) | **Co-Executive Director/ Director of Client Services**



**Rape Crisis Center**

Office: (608) 251-5126

Cell: (608) 575-1074

2801 Coho St., Ste. 301 | Madison, WI 53713

Distinguished members of the Madison Common Council,

We are writing to you collectively to urge you to consider additional investments to Crisis Intervention and Prevention Services as outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the City of Madison Community Development Division (CDD).

The CDD has not issued an RFP of this nature since 2016. In that time, the total city levy has increased by 23.5%. However, the amount of money available for Crisis Intervention and Prevention Services remains at the same level as it did five years ago (\$1.6 million which is 0.62% of the City's total property tax revenue allocated to the operating budget).

During the last five years, the demand for the services supported by CDD Crisis Intervention and Prevention has dramatically increased – particularly due to the Covid-19 pandemic when rates of violence sky-rocketed. The organizations supported by this funding are part of the key safety net for some of our city's most historically excluded and marginalized residents. This safety net includes things like 24-hour Crisis Lines, crisis response services, shelter for domestic violence victims, case management services, peer support, job training, as well as other services to directly assist individuals and families who may be at most risk for violence.

We understand – perhaps better than most – that resources are finite. However, even flat funding of these services for City residents amounts to a cut as the costs for providing these programs increases and we work hard to hire and retain high quality staff who are trauma informed and culturally responsive.

We respectfully ask you to consider an increase of just 1% of the city levy to support this vital safety net.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Pellebon & Missy Mael, Co-Executive Directors, Rape Crisis Center  
Brandi Grayson, Executive Director, Urban Triage  
Jeff Burkhart, Executive Director, Literacy Network  
Linda Ketchum, Executive Director, JustDane  
Shannon Barry, Executive Director, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services  
Sharyl Kato, Executive Director, The Rainbow Project  
Vanessa McDowell, CEO, YWCA Madison

**From:** andrew.sernatinger@gmail.com <andrew.sernatinger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:49 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Against Abbas amendment (BRT)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City Alders,

I'm writing to request you vote against the amendment sponsored by Council President (and my alder) Abbas, which would yet again delay BRT. I would happily write you a long, researched and cited email, but I won't waste anyone's time. Please vote against President Abbas' budget amendment. We're long overdue for some rapid transit, and the self-serving complaints of downtown business owners should not hold it hostage.

Thank you.

Andrew Sernatinger  
D12 Resident

**From:** Van pelt, Benjamin <Benjamin.Vanpelt@ssmhealth.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** kobeng@cityofmadison.com  
**Subject:** SSM Health - Focused Interruption Support Letter

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Afternoon Common Council Members,

Please find attached a letter of support from the SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital President regarding funding for Focused Interruption that will be part of your budget deliberations this week.

If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Respectfully,

**Ben Van Pelt | Director of Government Affairs**  
**SSM Health - Wisconsin**

1808 W. Beltline Hwy, Madison, WI 53713

Cell: 815-474-3973

Office: 608-260-3527

[Benjamin.VanPelt@ssmhealth.com](mailto:Benjamin.VanPelt@ssmhealth.com)

[ssmhealth.com](http://ssmhealth.com)



Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

November 8, 2021

City of Madison Common Council  
210 Martin Luther King Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703

Honorable Members of the City of Madison Common Council:

SSM Health would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to submit comments prior to your deliberations on the city budget during the week of 11/8/2021. We are specifically writing to request your support for amendment No. 8 in the City's 2022 Operating Budget, which relates to funding for gun violence prevention and crisis response programming through the group – Focused Interruption.

As an anchor healthcare organization in the community that provides comprehensive services, including Emergency Department services, we recognize the important role violence prevention and crisis response efforts play in mitigating the effects of trauma. In further supporting this work, SSM Health has begun a partnership with Focused Interruption, which has years of experience with breaking the cycle of violence.

In recent years, we have seen a dramatic increase in violent trauma in our ED, already seeing double the penetrating trauma year-to-date in comparison to all last year. Efforts to not only decrease gun violence, but also lessen the long-term effects of this trauma, are vital. In order to accomplish this difficult task, public support for Focused Interruption is essential.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments and for your work on all of the important issues facing our community. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to SSM Health's Director of Government Affairs, Ben Van Pelt, at [benjamin.vanpelt@ssmhealth.com](mailto:benjamin.vanpelt@ssmhealth.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Nondorf".

Kyle Nondorf  
President—St. Mary's Hospital-Madison

CC: Ben Van Pelt, Director of Government Affairs

**From:** Jake Rodgers <jjrodgers1994@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:58 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** 2022 Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

My name is Jake Rodgers and I am a lifetime resident of Madison. I am writing today to speak out in opposition to both the 2022 Executive Capital Budget and the 2022 Executive Operating Budget. I am writing to demand that you support Amendment 17 of the Budget and give 164k to the Cares program. Additionally, I am once again asking that you do not increase the budget for the Madison Police. Police do not keep us safe.

Thank you,  
Jake Rodgers

**From:** TUNJI LESI CPA LLC <tunjilesi@tunjilesicpa.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:00 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Budget Amendment - Item 67001

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing in support of the Budget Amendment concerning the Salvation Army building at the Darbo Drive Neighborhood.

The African immigrants population in the City of Madison have been growing over the years and it is the only community that has no place to call home. As the population has grown, so also have their needs. Many of the African immigrants now live in the Darbo neighborhood and across East Washington Avenue.

The ACCD is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization established to help the community integrate well into the larger Madison Community. Since established, it has been helping culturally conducive children education in partnership with the City of Madison and supported by MMSD. It has helped to assist residents in the Madison Community affected by COVID-19 Pandemic. It is still currently playing a critical role in this area.

In collaboration with Mentoring Positives, the Salvation Army Building will of tremendous space to help the ACCD with serving the needs of the community in the neighborhood and the Madison Community as a whole.

Thank you,  
Adetunji Lesi  
President ACCD

**From:** Geoff Cureton <geoff.cureton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:04 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Proposed budget amendment & BRT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

As a resident of D12, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed budget amendment put forward by alders Verveer, Harrington-McKinney, Carter, Abbas, and Myadze, to freeze funding and cease work on BRT until there is *\*another\** vote on the proposed routes for the East-West corridor. In addition to relitigating an issue which has been voted on more than once, it restricts the constituency of the Common Council to within line-of-sight of the top of State Street, and anyone beyond who has the means and inclination to visit Downtown in a personal vehicle.

Please vote "No" on this amendment.

Regards,  
Geoff Cureton, D12 resident.

**From:** Joan D. <joandowns911@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please consider the effect on the disabled

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with any vote regarding approval of the BRT routes.

*The Wisconsin State Journal*

continues to state, misleadingly, that "nearly everyone" is in favor of removing bus stops on State Street, even though it has published my letters to its editor stating that removal of these stops would eliminate access for me, as I am disabled, have no car, etc. Please keep the disabled in mind and approve the plan that Mayor Rhodes-Conway has proposed, with two stops remaining on State Street.

Thank you.

Joan Downs  
765 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53715-1486

**From:** Keyes, Joe R. <joe.keyes@tdstelecom.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:13 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Nov. 9th Common Council Budget Meeting - Support Capital Budget Amendment #15, Oppose Operating Budget Amendment #11 and Capital Budget Amendment #8

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Mayor and Alders,

Your work on Madison's budget is appreciated. However, I do have a couple of comments for the budget itself:

- 1) I **oppose** Operating Budget Amendment #11 and Capital Budget Amendment #8. The Madison Police Department (MPD) has been cut to the bone and further cuts are not needed. MPD has had to expend its scarce resources to handle several disturbances at East High School which should be the responsibility of the Madison Metropolitan School District. It also cannot patrol our streets for speeders due to lack of staff. Additionally, in last week's Finance Committee meeting, Fire Chief Davis explicitly stated it was too early to provide more funding to the fledgling CARES team since it is too early to determine how well it is operating. Please listen to your trusted managers.
- 2) I **support** Capital Budget Amendment #15. In the area of Quality Management, it is a tenant to bring all stakeholders together and gain consensus before a new service is launched otherwise there will be rework. This amendment speaks to that consensus.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Keyes

District 11

From: Burkhart109 <burkhart109@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:14 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Please support budget amendment #4! Thank you!

**From:** Barbara Chusid <bachusid@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** CARES team SUPPORT

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello alders,

I'm expressing my support for efforts to support the CARES team financially.

Specifically these amendments:

- Operating Budget Amendment #11
- Capital Budget Amendment #8

Our family was greatly affected by an incident that would definitely been better handled by a team including mental health workers.

There was an arrest and subsequent charges that not only burdened the person acting out but taxed our court system. That happened because police interpreted behavior as illegal rather than beyond the person's control.

I believe a team familiar with mental health issues would have handled the situation differently.

Thanks so much for your consideration,

Barbara Chusid  
2706 Sommers Ave.  
Madison, WI 53704

**From:** Craig Weinhold <cweinhold@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:17 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT - vote for Common Council oversight

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please vote for the Council to provide more oversight to the BRT process. This is not just about the top of State Street. There are many other concerns:

- On East Washington, BRT will eliminate bike lanes and pedestrian bumpouts, bringing rush hour traffic next to the sidewalks. Is that good, given all the ped/bike fatalities there this year?
- BRT totally bypasses Old University Ave, a dense residential area whose bus ridership today is higher than the section to the west served by three BRT stations.
- BRT takes sparse Mineral Point Rd instead of retail-dense Odana Rd and the West Transfer Station.
- As the practical BRT implementation details get worked out, there will be countless other details that citizens want their voice heard about.

The council's action will not be an "11th hour action" as some have claimed. Is it inconvenient for BRT planners, no doubt. But better for them to have some inconvenience than for the City to end up with another failed transportation project like the Transfer Station system. BRT is important; let's get it right.

Thank you,

Craig Weinhold  
Madison, WI

**From:** Jennifer Lord <jlord1010@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:21 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget Amendment #4 by Nasra Wehelie

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I support Amendment #4 proposed by Alder Nasra Wehelie.

Madison is home to many Africans, who've migrated gradually over half a century for many reasons, including education, employment, immigration, and family reunification. As this population has grown, too has the need to provide the services that help people integrate into the wider community. The Center does this by bringing together people of African descent and friends of Africa to support recent immigrants through economic development, housing navigation, education, empowerment, service, and dialogue.

No other organization in Dane County is meeting the unique needs of the African community or provides services or activities in several African languages. The Center provides programming that is culturally competent and meets the unique cultural needs of Africans with services available in: English, French, Swahili, Lingala, Kikongo, Tshiluba, Yoruba, Kinyarwanda and Pidgin English.

The Center has its current offices located on Madison's far West side however, most of Madison's African recent immigrant and refugee communities are on Madison's East and North sides with approximately 40% of the community living within 5 square miles of the Salvation Army site. The Salvation Army site is an ideal location for the center's home.

We are very excited to partner with Will Green's Mentoring Positives and collaborate to meet the needs of the Darbo-Worthington community. Mentoring Positives has a long history of successfully engaging youth and young adults who are often difficult to engage. Our collaboration addresses the complex needs of the Darbo-Worthington community and the African community beyond.

I support budget amendment 4 with 2.5 million dollars allocated to purchase the Salvation Army Darbro site for Mentoring Positives and the African Center

for Community Development to run unique programming to meet the needs of this unique community and beyond.

**Jennifer Lord**

Director

Fund Development and Capacity Building

**From:** Green, Will <will.g@mentoringpositives.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:24 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Revision to Previous Email voting for Amendment #4

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mentoring Positives (MP) has worked in the Darbo neighborhood for over 17 years. In this time, MP has brought a number of neighborhood leaders and residents together for continued and sustained community engagement. Will and Becky Green have been "boots on the ground" in the Darbo/Worthington Park neighborhood and have earned the trust of youth and adults alike, who live there. MP has been a part of the Darbo Joining Forces for Families' team, the City of Madison's Neighborhood Resource Team, and has been a part of the hiring process for many Madison Police Department Neighborhood Officers who have been selected to work in the neighborhood. MP partnered with the City Planning staff bringing residents together to update the recent updated neighborhood plan and has worked with many Alders, City Council members and Dane County supervisors over many years to advocate for the Darbo residents and families.

In addition, MP has brought valuable resources to the neighborhood, not only through their youth programming, but family empowerment, mental health/physical wellness, entrepreneur opportunities as well as funding for holidays and most recently COVID recovery efforts. Mentoring Positives is currently facilitating a neighborhood grant that incorporates residents as community leaders, called the "Darbo Council" to continue to develop and empower residents as leaders of their neighborhood. MP has also co-facilitated, facilitated or led the following...

- Held numerous listening sessions to gather neighborhood resident input, strengths and needs
  - Facilitated leadership development trainings (in collaboration with Edgewood College's Sustainability Leadership Graduate Program)
  - Co-facilitated the "Art of Hosting", a leadership training for facilitating group processes
  - Led countless family-friendly events for this neighborhood, including "Family Fun Nights", the Annual Darbo Peace Walk, the Darbo Block Party, bicycle repairs, the Bus Rapid Transit educational sessions, neighborhood ice cream socials and neighborhood barbecues
- All of these events have engaged the community thus allowing the residents, themselves, to have a say and a voice for THEIR own neighborhood.

Mentoring Positives, along with the African American Center for Community Development, are a dynamic partnership to truly engage this diverse neighborhood. With Darbo being a large community of African families, we have a shared vision of being a "one-stop-shop" for services, programming and support for all residents of the Darbo neighborhood. We believe the funds discussed in this amendment will be a commitment to

this collaborative work and to ensure that Mentoring Positives, with the African American Center for Community Development, can continue to lead and empower the Darbo residents. The residents deserve this consistency and commitment. Because of MP's 17 year long commitment, leadership, vision, and inspiration, there is no other choice but to VOTE YES on Capital Budget Amendment 4.

--

Will Green  
Founder/CEO  
Mentoring Positives, Inc  
(608) 819-6200  
[www.mentoringpositives.org](http://www.mentoringpositives.org)  
414 Rethke Ave  
Madison, WI. 53714



Madison LaFollette HS  
Head Coach Girls  
Varsity Basketball

**From:** Josh Feran <joshferan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:25 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Budget Comment Joshua Feran

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, please do not give any more money to the Madison police department! they are not good at allocating the resources they already have. They could move money from unnecessary police programs to help cover the costs of more officers. They already get so much of the city budget and if we keep giving in to their requests for more money every year it won't stop going up.

Thank you,

Josh Feran, Waunakee

**From:** Roberta Gassman <roberta.gassman@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:24 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Testimony of Roberta Gassman, representing self, City of Madison 11/9 Public Hearing; RE: BRT in Mayor's Cap Budget & Supporting Amendment to Keep Buses Off State Street Route

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Thank you, all alders, for your important work on BRT. My testimony for today's public hearing is attached here for you. Let me know if you have any questions.

Much appreciated and best to you, Roberta

--

Roberta Gassman

1915 Arlington Place  
Madison, Wisconsin 53726

**Testimony of Roberta Gassman to City of Madison 11/9/2021 Public Hearing**  
**RE: BRT in Mayor's Capital Budget & Amendment to Keep Buses Off State Street Route**

Contact info: [Roberta.gassmn@gmail.com](mailto:Roberta.gassmn@gmail.com); cell: 608-692-2666; home: 608-233-1766;  
1915 Arlington Place, Madison 53756 (City District #5, Regina Vidaver, Alder)

Mayor Rhodes-Conway & Members of the Common Council:

I come before you tonight representing only myself, a resident of Madison since '66. I've long been active in civic affairs, serving as president of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission and as a top appointee in the administrations of President Obama, Governors Doyle and Earl, Mayor Soglin and County Executive Phelps. I am a social worker by training, earned my Master's at UW and have served on many boards – United Way, DMI, Madison Community Foundation, Overture, Edgewood College and more - all, like me, dedicated to diversity and serving those in need.

I'm a granddaughter of immigrants; two of my great-grandmothers were murdered in '41 because of their religion; I'm the first in my family to go to college; and some, in my family have been homeless. From personal experience, I am very sensitive to the needs of the vulnerable. My husband of 50 years, Lester Pines, and I, work hard to support non-profits that serve the marginalized – from The Road Home and Goodman Community Center, to Neighborhood House where we met in '68.

I share all this because I want you to understand where I am coming from when I ask you to support BRT, but not through State Street.

It's hard to govern and make tough decisions. Competing interests make different asks of you. I understand. But this is why you were elected. To think big picture, to think of all of the inter-connected parts of what our city needs – not just what one department advises. To listen to all who come to you: the major community groups representing hundreds citywide - DMI, the Chamber, the BID, Smart

Growth Greater Madison; the very business owners on State Street dependent on your decisions; and, the very alder, who for decades, has represented this exact area.

Some have insinuated that if one does not support BRT as proposed, you don't support the marginalized. That is absurd and offensive.

This is also not just an academic case study at a progressive think tank; nor is it just a transportation research project. This is about running a real-life city, recovering from Covid and not in a transportation only silo. This is about building upon the hard work done strategically over decades turning our shuttered, empty downtown into a place for all with museums, public spaces, Overture, the arts, retail, restaurants, housing, hotel rooms, visitors – all supporting our tax base and public services, especially for the vulnerable we all care about.

Thank you for please, in supporting BRT, also support an amendment that will enable us to tweak the route, ensuring that we not only protect the vulnerable, but also keep huge new buses off State Street where they surely do not belong.

Listen especially to the words of George Austin, one our heroes, who, given his expertise and strategic work for decades, has changed the face of Madison: State Street “is in severe crisis” – “I do feel strongly that the BRT needs to be done but not with a State Street route.”

Thank you and I hope you will indeed listen.

**From:** Lbgoodrich@icloud.com <Lbgoodrich@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:30 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] State Street Plans

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Lynn Jenkins  
**Address:** 555S Midvale Blvd, Madison, Wi 63722  
**Phone:** 608-575-8797  
**Email:** [Lbgoodrich@icloud.com](mailto:Lbgoodrich@icloud.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Please please please do not vote for a rapid bus route on State Street. The street is the heart of Madison, connecting our beautiful capital to the UW. It can be, if the plans support it, a diverse and lively heart of our wonderful city. Why is this bus idea even on the table?

**From:** Alexandra Wilburn <wilburnalexandra@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:40 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Tonight's meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Opposition of 1 and 2.

The police budget is inflated. I support amendment 11 that gives 164K to the cares program.

Attached are my comments regarding this greater violence prevention that the new chief wants to implement.

One good man cannot fix a fundamentally racist and classiest system and my comments attached.

We can build systems of violence prevention through different departments, not a police department.



Alex Wilburn

Police budget opposition ||| The new chief wants to make the department one of public safety and crime intervention. constitutionally that is not what police do and to build that structure within the policing here will put the public in danger because bad actors and future police chiefs may. not have positive intentions for the community. In the cases DeShaney vs. Winnebago and Town of Castle Rock vs. Gonzales, the supreme court has ruled that police agencies are not obligated to provide protection of citizens. In other words, police are well within their rights to pick and choose when to intervene to protect the lives and property of others — even when a threat is apparent.

Like Reply 2m



Alex Wilburn

So putting money into police being part of violence intervention does not protect us or help us in the long run but puts us at risk to bad actors. the violence prevention is police monitoring of "high risk" individuals. that is state surveillance by an agency that isn't structurally built to be held accountable for it's own bad actions, and isn't structurally built to protect us or be public safety

Like Reply 1m



Alex Wilburn

The new chief specifically mentioned Pandering to be a reason that we need police funding. we do not need police to go to calls about people in need asking for help from the community.

Like Reply 1m



Alex Wilburn

if the statistics they want to gather and the touchpoints with officials could actually help reduce violence, then we should do that but under public health department and NOT THE POLICE

Like Reply 1m

**From:** Ananda Deacon <adeacon@freedomactionnow.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:40 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Commentary Opposing Operating Budget - Item 67496

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello alders,

My name is Ananda (she/her) and I am a local organizer in the community. I have been gathering feedback from folks who are opposed to the operating budget as it stands, specifically all the money that is set to be given to the police. I am personally in opposition and have already registered as such, but the following is a quote from an anonymous Madison community member, who also wanted to give testimony but not speak at the meeting:

"Our community is in desperate need of funding for our schools, libraries, arts programs, healthcare, and a wide variety of other elements that make a community. Using nearly a quarter of the operational budget to support the police, who have had multiple public instances of violence, including toward children, in the last few months, is absolutely unacceptable to me as a tax payer. This isn't the community I want to live in. I want to live in a community where human beings can access their needs, feel safe, find homes and well-paying jobs, make art and express themselves, get an education...the list goes on. \$84 million to the police is absolutely ridiculous."

Best,

Ananda

**From:** Richard Yarl <e3ryarl.ry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:53 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** AMENDMENT #4

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may Concern

I fully support this amendment for the betterment of the Madison African Community and the entire Madison community at large.

Cheers!

Richard YARL

**From:** Katherine Johnson <thosetricksyspirits@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:15 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** 11/9 common counsel meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello, my name is Katherine Johnson and I am a longtime resident of Madison. I have registered in opposition to budget items #1 and #2 because I oppose the budgets as written.

As I am unable to speak tonight, I will elaborate on the amendments here.

I am emphatically against what I believe is amendment #7 on item #1, a plan to budget for more cop cars. We do not need more cops or more equipment for them. In fact I often see at least four squad cars pull up to what should only be a routine traffic stop or wellness check. We also know that more cops over-police vulnerable areas. They show up after the fact, and often do nothing further. When they do take action, it is frequently violently restraining, harming, and taking people into custody. One thing we know for certain is that people who have been jailed, reoffend. Putting people through the system rather than handling situations delicately, addressing root causes, and funding rehabilitation only creates more crime. Please, choose people over cops to truly reduce crime in our city.

Secondly, I support amendment #11 on agenda item #2. I support channeling our resources into addressing the humanity involved in crime, rather than the police who escalate already tense and delicate situations, often harming the public. When we understand that crime is primarily the result of people in desperate situations, we will make progress in keeping our community a safe and healthy place for all occupants.

Thank you,

Katherine Johnson

**From:** Josephine Harter <harterjosephine@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:18 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Monroe St library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am in favor of restoring hours of operation to the Monroe Street library branch.

**From:** Linda OHern <baldwinohern@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:25 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Bring BRT to the citizens who are most frequent users who depend on mass transit.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm asking you to support amendment 15. Take a look at the downtown stops from the perspective of the most frequent users.

Most of them work on the other side of the square. Most riders are workers, not shoppers or event goers. Hopefully BRT builds those groups of riders, too.

Put the stops on the outer ring on the south side. Let State Street recover.

Linda Baldwin OHern

[baldwinohern@gmail.com](mailto:baldwinohern@gmail.com)

**From:** Larissa Joanna <gjoannalove@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:40 PM

**To:** City of Madison <noreply@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Capital Budget Public comment.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I apologize my connection might of been horrible at the time of speaking. Here is a written statement of every word I said.

I think it's ridiculous you don't hear the voices and the stories over and over advocating for less police in our community. This budget is ridiculous, the way you vote it's a fckn shamee and does not really shows that you care to change the record of a rascist city and State we are on nationwide, being the state that incarcerates Black man at the highest rate anywhere in the country, this should really be shameful to your so call leadership , this is not why we elected many of you in this body, if you want to start changing things then listening the demands of those of us fighting for justice and human rights, you must support and pass Amendment 8 in the executive budget to help further a safe response to those suffering a mental crisis, at the same time you need to OPPOSE amendment 13 OUR city doesn't need more cops and cop cars that respond to incite violance into Black and Brown bodies or having sex in this cars while on the clock with our tax paying dollars. Just yesterday the situation at East High School should be an eye opening, children getting maced by the gang of criminals you continue to support and increasing the numbers of in our community, you are standing on the wrong side of history when you are part of the problem and CPS should be here today protecting this children, but of course the whole damn system is guilty as hell and as you continue harming the health of our communities don't be surprise when they raise up because the clock is ticking for a trigger happy cop to pull the trigger on a Black or Brown child any second again, Justice for Tony Robinson

No more Police. No more cop cars. Please do your job. Black Lives Matter.

Larissa Joanna

**From:** Jane Albert <jalbert4410@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:15 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Monroe Street Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please restore all operating hours for our neighborhood library!  
Thank you, Jane Albert  
2144 West Lawn Ave.  
Madison, WI 53711

**From:** Carl A. <carlwob@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT support

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am retired now, and rely on Madison Buses to get around town. When I worked at UW-Madison, I relied on the buses 5 days a week, and sometimes off hours.

Why someone would want to kill the deal for BRT is very self-serving, and does nothing to make affordable transportation available to citizens who need it.

I fully support the efforts of BRT, and ask that you do likewise.

Sincerely,

Carl Aniel

2625 Union St. Madison WI 53704

**From:** Alexandra Wilburn <wilburnalexandra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:11 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fund the independent monitor

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support fully funding the independent monitor!

**From:** Alexandra Wilburn <wilburnalexandra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:13 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fund The Library

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I stand with Eve Galanter and what she is asking for.

**From:** Steve Verburg <stverburg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:51 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please pass Operating Budget Amendment 11

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Members of the Common Council:

I would like to add a few thoughts to my public hearing statement.

Please beef up the CARES pilot program. There are no compelling reasons we shouldn't have a more robust pilot program. There are great risks in going too slowly.

The whispering campaign against the CARES program has already begun. The same people who are tight with MPD and its union and who keep falsely claiming MPD is underfunded and that crime rates are out of control – those people are already spreading the word in Next Door and Facebook and in police-sponsored club meetings.

Some of these individuals will tell you they love CARES.

And I will promise you that they will continue to love CARES as long as it isn't funded in any way that would allow it to make a difference -- because if CARES succeeds, what will be next? It's very threatening – just like moving the parking enforcement officers was very threatening. Like community restoration court and jail reform and other initiatives that have been buried and suppressed over the years.

Why is CARES so scary? It's simple: What if someday there aren't enough armed police officers so that we can summon them whenever we see a Black person who makes us feel uncomfortable?

In Madison and Dane County, there have been many programs that were supposed to address racism and police excesses. They have been underfunded and left to die. Meanwhile, racist institutional disparities keep getting worse here in your city.

Let's move ahead now, vigorously, with proven programs that will finally begin to reduce the unnecessary harm caused every day by this police department.

Sincerely,

Steve Verburg  
Madison, Wisconsin  
53716

**From:** Alexandra Wilburn <wilburnalexandra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:03 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Gun Violence Prevention

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

Let's support the focused interruption mission and fully fund the independent monitor.

Best Regards,  
Alexandra Wilburn

**From:** Johnnie Milton <johnniecbbq@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:07 PM  
**To:** Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Virtual registration

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Mayor and Alders,

First I apologize for the technical difficulties that I was having therefore missed the opportunity to speak tonight. Here are my thoughts:

We need to center the perspective of the majority of black residents. Right now the media is centering the perspective of black activists who may not represent the perspective of the majority of black residents. Having said this, I fully and whole heartedly support the budget that Chief Barnes has prepared.

I know and believe that Chief Barnes will not only reduce crime, but specifically be able to work with the community and diverse populations to reduce black on black crime, violent crimes and domestic crimes. Now is the time that we need to support one another and not stay divided.

Sincerely,

**From:** Patti Frazier <pfrazier240@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:37 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT route

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi

My name is Patricia Frazier and I live at 1614 Jenifer St. I love Madison. It is a special place for soo many people. State Street and the capitol are two special places that really bring joy and comfort to our unique city. They are places for people to gather and celebrate life here in Madison. Please do not allow the BRT route to go through these places. We need to keep buses out of these two places. Please vote accordingly.

Patricia Frazier

**From:** Ryan Hartkopf <ryanhartkopf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose cutting funding for OIM Data Analyst position

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I would like to express my disapproval regarding the amendment introduced by alders McKinney and Carter cutting the position of the Data Analyst for the Office of the Independent Monitor. Seeing that OIM is a new program, it is critical that its positions be funded at the intended levels, otherwise the effectiveness of the office will be greatly diminished.

A lot of work and struggle has gone into creating this office and position, and it would be a waste to cut it now, at the 11th hour. Please vote against this resolution.

Thank you,

Ryan Hartkopf  
6633 Raymond Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711

From: Peyton David <peyday44@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:24 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Written opposition to Amendment 12 in the Operational Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning:

I am a Madison community member emailing my opposition to Amendment 12 in the Operational Budget. Cutting the data analyst position would completely undermine the capacity of the Independent Monitor's Office to analyze trends, recognize problematic patterns and practices, etc. This is would detriment the office. Money for increased public health funding should come from the police budget, not the office overseeing the police. I urge you to consider this when voting on this amendment.

Sincerely,

Peyton

**From:** Mallory Spencer <spencermallory17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Amendment 12 of the Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am concerned about the elimination of the data analyst position in the Office of the Independent Monitor proposed in Amendment 12 of the Operational Budget. This would mean that the police would have less accountability for their actions. At a time like this, where police as an institution are being put under pressure, removing accountability for their actions would be a negative. To both prevent some level of violence and to keep accountability, it would be wise to fund the data analyst position by removing money from the police budget, as police are a major source of gun violence. It certainly would not be beneficial to fund this position by transferring money from the violence prevention unit or similar areas, but it must be funded.

A concerned Madison resident,  
Mallory Spencer

**From:** Steve Verburg <stverburg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:56 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Reject cut to IM data analyst

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Common Council Members:

Please reject the malicious mischief that has been proposed in Amendment 12 cutting the police department Independent Monitor data analyst.

This is another example of how institutional racism works. Politicians funded by developers, real estate interests and the police union — or who want that money in the next election — work tirelessly to sabotage anything that threatens the status quo in which police are able to lock up every Black person in sight in order to prevent one from potentially committing a crime.

Please: Transfer money from the police department to fund important public health programs.

It's time to take action. Stand up to the misinformation, intimidation and dog-whistles and racist framing.

The pandemic and the racial justice uprising have opened possibilities to fight for qualitative changes. Please think and act boldly.

If not now, when?

Sincerely,

Steve Verburg  
District 16  
Madison, Wisconsin  
608-212-9726

**From:** Gregory Gelembiuk <gwgelemb@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In opposition to Operating Budget Amendment #12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing in opposition to Operating Budget Amendment #12, which would cut the data analyst position of the Office of the Independent Monitor. A robust Independent Monitor's Office is core to the police reforms recommended by OIR and the MPD Policy & Procedure Review Ad Hoc Committee, on which I served. Cutting the data analyst position would delay and undermine the capacity of the Independent Monitor's Office to recognize problematic patterns and practices, to analyze trends, etc.

This amendment creates an artificial tradeoff with something many people want, including myself (increased funding of public health approaches for gun violence prevention). IMHO, money for increased public health funding should come from the \$87,797,828 police budget, not the (relatively very small) office overseeing the police.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Gelembiuk

**From:** Megan Spielbauer Sandate <megan.spielbauer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Amendment 12 for Operation Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Madison Common Council,

My name is Megan Spielbauer Sandate, and I am a resident of District 4. I am emailing you all to voice my opposition to amendment 12 to the 2022 operation budget.

I recognize the need for funds to address gun violence. However, I cannot support taking the funding from the Office of the Independent Monitor and Equity Coordinate for IT. Funds for public health should be coming from the Madison Police Department's budget, which is massive.

Taking money away from data analysis is dangerous. I say this as someone who is currently writing their thesis about crime in Wisconsin. Realizing how little data is required to be reported or maintained by jails - government departments that cage people- has been a shocking realization.

The Office of the Independent Monitor should not have its funding taken when its purpose is to review the actions of MPD who we know to be untrustworthy. Also, we have not achieved equity in Madison, so I think we should seriously consider maintaining positions dedicated to serving racial justice.

I hope that you will strike down this amendment.

Megan Spielbauer Sandate

**From:** AARON LOPEZ <alopez@astro.wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose Amendment 12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear all,

I'm writing to ask that you firmly oppose Amendment 12 to the Operational Budget.

Cutting the data analyst position would totally undermine the capacity of the Independent Monitor's Office to analyze trends, recognize problematic patterns and practices, etc. If anything must be cut for increased funding of public health for gun violence prevention, then it *must* be from the police budget, not the office overseeing the police! Cutting from the police budget would be doubly effective, since police are responsible for much gun violence here in Madison.

Best,

Aaron Lopez  
PhD Graduate Student | Astronomy  
University of Wisconsin – Madison  
[alopez@astro.wisc.edu](mailto:alopez@astro.wisc.edu) | 3511B Sterling Hall

**From:** ygokhale123 <ygokhale123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Oppose Amendment 12 in Operational Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

My name is Yash Gokhale from district 4 and I am emailing today to say that I STRONGLY oppose amendment 12 of the operational budget. Cutting funding from the data analyst position would greatly hurt the office of the independent monitor and I'm baffled at how this makes any sense. Funding for public health should come from the police budget, not the office overseeing them. Decreasing funding to the independent monitor would decrease public safety and allow for police officers to come further off their leashes.

Again I want to iterate my strong opposition to amendment 12, and baffled by the lack of logic/critical thinking that went into its conception.

Best,  
-Yash

**From:** Linda Ketcham <linda@justdane.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Funding of the Civilian Oversight Board

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders:

I am writing on behalf of JustDane to ask that you reject Amendment 12 to the Operating Budget to reduce funding to the Civilian Oversight Board. Given the City's substantial investment in this process and that the COB has just begun its work, any attempt to cut funding to the program seems an attempt to undermine its' ability to effectively operate. The work of the COB is crucial to police accountability and transparency and any attempt to reduce funds for the COB will create further community distrust of the MPD as well as call into question the commitment of the Common Council to a police department that is accountable to the entire community. Please vote no on Amendment 12.

Linda Ketcham (she, her, hers)  
Executive Director  
Madison-area Urban Ministry, Inc. (dba JustDane)  
2115 S. Park St.  
Madison, WI 53713  
608-256-0906  
She, her,hers

From: Amy Owen <amydownen@hushmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 12:29 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: requesting a vote against Amendment 12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing to request that you vote against Amendment 12 reducing funding for the Office of the Independent Police Monitor and positions in that office. We need to fully fund staffing for this office in order to ensure the type of complex, detailed work this office will surely have can be done as well as possible. Anything less may undermine confidence in this office and undermine the work of this office, and our city's residents deserve better.

Thank you,  
Amy Owen  
3129 Buena Vista Street  
Madison, WI 53704

**From:** Kristin Mathews <imkrzy4mm@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Stop amendment #12!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon Madison Alders,

I am writing to implore to you that you must not adopt the amendment to #12 of the City budget today!

Do not take money away from a pathway to Justice, we need this OIM Immediately to make sure Police is hold accountable.

Cutting the data analyst position would totally undermine the capacity of the Independent Monitor's Office to analyze trends, recognize problematic patterns and practices, etc. It would cripple the office.

Money for increased public health funding should come from the police budget, not the office overseeing the police! This is wrong and a slap in the face of the whole PCOB and all of the work that has gone into the formation of the committee, along with the work of the Ad Hoc Committee! Listen to the citizens of Madison...especially the underserved and under represented communities!  
Respectfully, Kristin Mathews

**From:** susan.valentine@mac.com <susan.valentine@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Funding for CARES program

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Susan Valentine  
**Address:** 10 Apple Hill Circle, Madison, Wi 53717  
**Email:** [susan.valentine@mac.com](mailto:susan.valentine@mac.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I am in support of the CARES program and hope that you will vote for the Operating Budget Amendment #1 and the Capital Budget Amendment #8. A new approach to public safety is long overdue.

**From:** Jake Winkler <trappedinink@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Amendment 12 - cuts to Independent Monitor's Data Analyst

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please oppose this amendment. If we want to make data-driven policy decisions, we need this position supporting the Independent Monitor. I'm tired of policy driven by what people at the levers of power want rather than what is actually good for citizens.

**From:** Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles <gildrievoyles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to Budget amendment 12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

My name is Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles. I live at 202 Farley Avenue. I ask you to vote and stand against Budget amendment 12 which would take money from the budget for data analysis in the Office of Independent Monitor. Proper data analysis is vital for the mission of the Independent monitor and the Civilian Oversight Board. Without proper data gathering, reporting, and analysing the citizens of Madison can not properly assess the effectiveness of the police department or city wide attempts to end the huge racial disparity in who gets policed, arrested, and charged with crimes in this community. Removing the data analysis budget will undermine the effectiveness of the Office of Independent Monitor.

Please fully fund the Office of the Independent Monitor including filling and funding the data analyst position.

With gratitude for your service and consideration,

Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles  
202 Farley Avenue  
Madison, WI

**From:** susan.valentine@mac.com <susan.valentine@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:11 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [All Alders] Funding for CARES program

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Susan Valentine  
**Address:** 10 Apple Hill Circle, Madison, Wi 53717  
**Email:** [susan.valentine@mac.com](mailto:susan.valentine@mac.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

I am in support of the CARES program and hope that you will vote for the Operating Budget Amendment #1 and the Capital Budget Amendment #8. A new approach to public safety is long overdue.

**From:** JACK K PHILLIPS <jack.phillips@wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposed to Amendment 12 on Operating Budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello all,

I want to register my opposition, not just to the content but the process represented by amendment 12 to the Operating Budget. Submitting this amendment an hour before the meeting and circumventing the budget process that the rest of the amendments went through is dishonest and antidemocratic, as is suddenly reducing the budget of PCOB and the Office of the Independent Monitor with absolutely no consultation or warning. It also represents a false choice between two programs that build a healthier, more vibrant community. There is plenty of money in the dark and all-consuming money pit that is MPD's operating budget, and yet, mysteriously, the amendment targets the one body that exists to hold MPD accountable for their multiple murders. I have no doubt that cop union lobbying, money, and corruption went into the authorship of this amendment. Please vote against this destructive amendment, and fund Focused Intervention from MPD's bloated budget instead, reflecting the reduced need for policing with reduced incidence of violent crime. Thank you.

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips  
[They/Them](#)  
Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**From:** Bill Newman <newmanwj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Please oppose current independent monitor analyst funding

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Common Council Members:

Please reject the malicious mischief that has been proposed in Amendment 12 cutting the police department Independent Monitor data analyst.

This is another example of how institutional racism works. Politicians funded by developers, real estate interests and the police union — or who want that money in the next election — work tirelessly to sabotage anything that threatens the status quo in which police are able to lock up every Black person in sight in order to prevent one from potentially committing a crime.

Please: Transfer money from the police department to fund important public health programs. It's time to take action. Stand up to the misinformation, intimidation and dog-whistles and racist framing.

The pandemic and the racial justice uprising have opened possibilities to fight for qualitative changes. Please think and act boldly.

If not now, when?

Sincerely,  
Bill Newman  
2037 Rutledge St  
Madison, 53704

**From:** Joanna Frasch <jefra1313@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:10 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** IM Data Analyst Position

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

**Common Council Members:**

**Please reject the malicious mischief that has been proposed in Amendment 12 cutting the police department Independent Monitor data analyst. As a data analyst myself, I understand the importance of this position and information it would provide.**

**This is another example of how institutional racism works. Politicians funded by developers, real estate interests and the police union — or who want that money in the next election — work tirelessly to sabotage anything that threatens the status quo in which police are able to lock up every Black person in sight in order to prevent one from potentially committing a crime.**

**Please: Transfer money from the police department to fund important public health programs. It's time to take action. Stand up to the misinformation, intimidation and dog-whistles and racist framing.**

**The pandemic and the racial justice uprising have opened possibilities to fight for qualitative changes. Please think and act boldly.**

**If not now, when?**

**Sincerely,  
Joanna Frasch  
Alder: Gary Halverson  
3348 Ambassador Dr. #3  
Madison, WI 53718**

**From:** Sophie Wolbert <wolbertsophie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:16 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to amendment 12 in operational budget

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to you as a Madison resident to express my vehement opposition to Amendment 12 of the Operational Budget.

We should not be cutting anything from the Independent Monitor's Office, especially the data analyst position which is essential to the functioning of this office. I know the reason this amendment was proposed is so that you can increase funding to the public health gun violence prevention initiatives - which I believe is a good thing. However, the funding for this should NOT be coming from cutting such an essential position! Instead, you should take the money from the ridiculously high police department budget. The money you need for this would be trivial to the police department, given that they have a budget of over \$80 million.

Please do the right thing and vote against this amendment.

Thank you,  
Sophie Wolbert

**From:** DJH Photo <djhphoto@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vote no on Amendment 12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Common Council Members:

Please reject the malicious mischief that has been proposed in Amendment 12 cutting the police department Independent Monitor data analyst.

This is another example of how institutional racism works. Politicians funded by developers, real estate interests and the police union — or who want that money in the next election — work tirelessly to sabotage anything that threatens the status quo in which police are able to lock up every Black person in sight in order to prevent one from potentially committing a crime.

Please: Transfer money from the police department to fund important public health programs. It's time to take action. Stand up to the misinformation, intimidation and dog-whistles and racist framing.

The pandemic and the racial justice uprising have opened possibilities to fight for qualitative changes. Please think and act boldly.

If not now, when?

Sincerely,

DJ Haugen  
111 W. Wilson St. #204  
Madison, WI 53703  
[djhphoto@hotmail.com](mailto:djhphoto@hotmail.com)

**From:** sophia\_saz <sophia\_saz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:24 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Opposition to amendment 12

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

My name is Soren, and I'm a Madison resident. I'm emailing to voice my dissatisfaction with amendment 12 to the operating budget.

Submitting it one hour before is shady, undemocratic, and unethical - as a citizen I strive for transparency and honesty in my government and this feels dishonest.

I'm opposed to the budget cuts proposed to the PCOB and the office of the independent monitor. MPD receives plenty of funding - and there's more than enough in the budget to cover a vital method for holding police accountable for their misconduct without presenting the false narrative that we must choose.

Please oppose this amendment, and get funding from Focused Intervention from the large and bloated MPD budget instead.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Best,  
Soren

**From:** John Kane <johnckane@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:25 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Cc:** Harrington-McKinney, Barbara <district1@cityofmadison.com>; Heck, Patrick <district2@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; Verveer, Michael <district4@cityofmadison.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; Benford, Brian <district6@cityofmadison.com>; Wehelie, Nasra H <district7@cityofmadison.com>; Bennett, Juliana <district8@cityofmadison.com>; Conklin, Nikki <district09@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>; Martin, Arvina <district11@cityofmadison.com>; Abbas, Syed <district12@cityofmadison.com>; Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Carter, Sheri <district14@cityofmadison.com>; Foster, Grant <district15@cityofmadison.com>; Currie, Jael <district16@cityofmadison.com>; Halverson, Gary <district17@cityofmadison.com>; Myadze, Charles <district18@cityofmadison.com>; Furman, Keith <district19@cityofmadison.com>; Albouras, Christian <district20@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Vote No on Amendment 15

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders of Madison,

There is no reason a small group of State Street business owners should have such a disproportionate impact on public transportation policy in a growing city of over 250,000 people.

It's disappointing to hear Alder Syed couch the discussion of the BRT lines in terms of equal access to public transportation when that's exactly what the BRT lines would offer: frequent, easy access from all areas of our city to all areas of our city, including downtown Madison. The east/west and north/south BRT lines would service exactly the neighborhoods that Alder Syed claims to be worried about, including some in his district.

BRT lines on State Street are an economic and equity no brainer.

Please don't let a small handful of shortsighted State Street business owners have veto power over a whole community's transportation needs.

**Please vote no on proposed amendment 15!**

Sincerely,  
John Kane  
Madison, Wisconsin

**From:** JEFFREY BARTELL <jbbartell@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 3:40 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Amendment #15

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*Dear Alders,*

*As a life-long Madisonian, I write to support Amendment #15 to permit the Council to adjust the mayor's plan relating to the BRT route and stops. In considering our City's transportation policy, it seems to me we must simultaneously consider the needs of our most vulnerable and the economic well-being of our downtown, including State Street. George Austin, Madison's most accomplished and respected urban planner, has observed that State Street is in "severe crisis.". He said that he strongly supports BRT, but "not with a State Street route." All of us should listen to him. I think it is imperative that the Council have authority to consider all of these important community issues together, and to adjust the BRT routes and stops to further those objectives. I hope you agree.*

Jeffrey Bartell  
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**From:** Tessa Echeverria <tessaecheverria@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 4:09 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** On amendment 12

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Dear Common Council Members,

Please reject the malicious mischief that has been proposed in Amendment 12 cutting the police department Independent Monitor data analyst.

This is another example of how institutional racism works. Politicians funded by developers, real estate interests and the police union — or who want that money in the next election — work tirelessly to sabotage anything that threatens the status quo in which police are able to lock up every Black person in sight in order to prevent one from potentially committing a crime.

Please: Transfer money from the police department to fund important public health programs. It's time to take action. Stand up to the misinformation, intimidation and dog-whistles and racist framing.

The pandemic and the racial justice uprising have opened possibilities to fight for qualitative changes. Please think and act boldly.

If not now, when?

Sincerely,

Tessa Echeverria  
District 12 resident

**From:** DB <daniel.p.bush@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 4:13 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** BRT amendment

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Hello,

I live in District 12 and was a regular Metro commuter to downtown pre-pandemic, and I wish to express my strong opposition to the BRT amendment. This is something Madison needs; further delays are unacceptable and could very well kill the project. I am especially dismayed to see our North Side alders representing downtown interests on this issue, rather than our own neighborhoods that will benefit greatly from the second line. I hope a majority of the Council will reject this last-minute push to wreck what could be something great for our city.

Thank you.

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Daniel Bush  
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