



Department of Transportation

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Director's Report – April 18, 2022

The paragraphs below summarize some of the key efforts and events that occurred in March and April.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Lynch, PE, PTOE, PTP, AICP
Director of Transportation
City of Madison

Transportation Alternatives Program

The TPPB voted on the projects listed for the Transportation Alternatives Program grant application. At that time there was a desire to include additional Bicycle deployments, but it was unclear if they were eligible for this federal funding. WisDOT has confirmed the eligibility of Bicycle. Since Bicycle was not specifically listed in the resolution, WisDOT has requested a subsequent resolution confirming its submission. The original amendment also did not reflect the full extent of the Badger Rd Shared Use Path project which includes a path along both W Badger Rd and N Rusk Ave and the School Rd project was increased to include additional improvements on the walking routes near Mendota Elementary and Lindbergh Elementary. That resolution will be introduced at the 4/19 council meeting, yet because of WisDOT's timeline cannot be referred to TPPB. Questions can be answered at the 4/18 TPPB meeting.

BRT

- Funding
 - The FTA presented its funding recommendations for the 2022 FY on March 28. The Small Starts funding recommendation for the E-W BRT increased from \$80 million to \$103 million. An increase of \$23 million which allows us to convert the BRT fleet to fully electric.
 - The passage of the appropriations bill included the CIG funding that would be used for the E-W BRT.
 - On April 15 there was a press conference with the mayor and Tammy Baldwin to announce a \$6.4 million grant which will be used to make Phase 3 improvements at the bus maintenance facility at 1101 East Washington. This money augments and replaces a part of the \$10 million included in the 2023 CIP for improvements.
- Plans— The 60% plans were introduced under legistar 70618 and will be voted on at the April 19 council meeting.
- The council resolution (70618) also includes approval for purchasing up to 46 electric buses from New Flyer.

- Environmental Document – The environmental document has been submitted to FTA and is under final review.
- Third party agreements are completed with all partners except for Dane County. We are working with county staff to finalize this agreement.

Parking

- Our Parking Administrative Supervisor has moved onto other opportunities. This, combined with not having a Parking Manager is putting additional demands on the parking operation. We will be working to fill these vacancies.
- Development proposals for the State Street Campus garage were presented to Finance on March 21, with the committee giving direction to pursue negotiations with the Mortensen/Theory group.
- One long term lease for the Wilson St garage for apartments associated with Block 105 introduced into council. Working on two long term leases for Livingston garage.
- The option to house PEOs on Pennsylvania St. was not successful. We will continue to look into additional options, which may need to include longer term options at Sayles St.

Other

- Passenger Rail – We received one proposal for the passenger rail station RFP from a national firm familiar with rail design. We will be reviewing the proposal, with the anticipation of introducing a contract soon.
- Transportation Improvement Program process – continued to work on developing a process. There are several challenges that are causing us to refine/revise the proposed process. Probable update in May.
- TDM Ordinance – working on details of the ordinance. Several interactions with the attorney's office. The TDM program will have adjustments that will likely be brought before TPPB. Possible council introduction in May.

Transit - Other

- The Transit Network Redesign team has developed a series of amendments to address localized service concerns. They are still receiving comments. A public meeting to discuss amendments is tentatively scheduled for May 18. TPPB will have a hearing tentatively planned for May 31st.

Vision Zero

- Vision Zero Action plan was approved by council on March 29.
- Madison was formally admitted into the Vision Zero network (see <https://visionzeronetwork.org/resources/vision-zero-communities/>) In their comments on Madison's Action Plan, they paid special attention to our treatment of enforcement, with the statement *"We compliment Madison's thoughtful approach to re-assessing the role of enforcement in traffic safety. It might be a great model for other Vision Zero communities and we hope you'll keep VZN updated on these efforts so that we can share the experience with others."*

Capital Budget

Agencies are preparing capital budget request to be submitted in the next week. Transportation budget request is not complete, yet new items that likely will be included are:

- Safe Streets for All Federal Grant – allowing Madison to tap into this new federal program geared towards Vision Zero types of improvements.
- Intercity Bus terminal
- State Street Campus garage replacement
- PEO facility

- PEO Technology Equipment
- N/S Bus Rapid Transit – design and construction
- Federal Grant Writing assistance to capture BIL funding opportunities
- Additional funding for Passenger Rail studies.