

**From:** [Alexander Harding](#)  
**To:** [Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Evers, Tag](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Beg buttons: Please stop perpetuating car dependence  
**Date:** Saturday, April 10, 2021 5:56:44 PM

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Since my comment yesterday, I've done more research and I just watched the following video:

<https://youtu.be/knbVWXzL4-4>

About how the Dutch use push buttons to actually facilitate pedestrian movement, and how the push buttons make crossings FASTER for pedestrians than if there was no button.

In Madison, push buttons ("beg buttons") are a tool to prioritize cars, and they inhibit pedestrian movement (than if there was no button).

So, I think we should not add or enable a single beg button to our streets, **unless the button actually interrupts the light cycle and makes pedestrian movement faster than if there was no button, like the Dutch do.**

Thanks  
Alex

On Apr 9, 2021, at 8:03 PM, Alexander Harding <[alex@harding.dev](mailto:alex@harding.dev)> wrote:

[Regarding this document](#), adding back beg buttons is a mistake.

You have a choice:

1. Make the one upside of the COVID-19 epidemic be the reimagining of our streets into the future, to prioritize people over cars, or:
2. Regress to continue killing people, increasing VMT, and continuing to consciously make racist and classist infrastructure choices.

Adding back beg buttons to of our streets is a massive failure of the City of Madison's Transportation Department to acknowledge Vision Zero, our declared Climate Emergency, and Complete Streets program. A Complete Street shouldn't require you to press a button to ask to cross the street. If you have conflicting modes of transport, the mode most efficient and least taxing on society should be prioritized. **There's only one way to sustainably solve congestion:** change the predominant mode of transportation from the car to something more efficient.

We should be removing and disabling more beg buttons, not adding them back. **I ask the commission to make an alternative motion, to freeze our current beg button deployment on city streets, preventing them from being added/enabled, and requiring them to be removed upon street**

**reconstruction.**

Thanks.

Alex

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