

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**  
**SOUTH CAMPUS UNION PROJECT**  
**RE: RESOLUTION VACATING A PORTION OF WEST JOHNSON ST.**  
**AND AUTHORIZING CITY PETITION TO**  
**THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2008**

**Street Vacation:** Vacate West Johnson Street between North Randall Avenue and North Orchard Street.

**Rail Crossing Modifications:**

- Modify North Randall Avenue crossing to accommodate increased street right-of-way and add new gate for right turn lane.
- Close West Johnson Street crossing.
- Retain North Orchard Street crossing with substantially reduced traffic. The loading dock for Union South will be relocated and this leg of Orchard Street will be converted to a pedestrian/bicycle mall with a driveway entry serving only the Computer Science Building's loading dock.

**Purpose of Vacation and Crossing Changes:** The University will demolish the existing Union South and Randall Towers and construct a new South Campus Union on an expanded site that includes the vacated portion of West Johnson Street and the old Randall Towers site. The expanded site is needed to provide for increased program needs and create the space needed for an eventual commuter rail station on the north side of the building.

**Traffic Impacts:** This one-way portion of West Johnson Street currently experiences an average daily traffic between 3,000 and 4,000 vehicles. The vacation of this street is expected to increase the number of northbound vehicles on Randall turning right onto Campus Dr. to travel east. Traffic on West Dayton Street will also likely increase slightly.

**Traffic Impact Mitigation:** The following measures were developed with the help of City staff:

- Addition of a signalized right-turn-only lane and pedestrian refuge island for northbound vehicles turning right from Randall Avenue onto Campus Drive.
- Closure of the median on Randall Avenue across Engineering Drive to prevent eastbound vehicles from turning left from Engineering Drive to Randall Avenue. This will reduce the number of northbound vehicles on Randall Avenue. A channel will be provided for vehicles turning left from Randall Avenue to Engineering Drive.
- Installation of a median on Engineering Drive between opposing traffic lanes to provide a pedestrian refuge and assist in preventing left turns from Engineering Drive to Randall Avenue.
- Open the western end of Engineering Drive to allow vehicles to turn right from the driveway between the Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Centers Buildings onto University Avenue.