

**From:** [Tao, Yang](#)  
**To:** ["Bremer, William"; cailey.jamison@gmail.com; Harrington-McKinney, Barbara; Jess, Denise; "Kliems, Harald"; Lynn Olson; Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina; McCahill, Christopher; O'Brien, Sean; Ochowicz, William; Pepe Barros; Webber, Robbie \(robbie@robbiewebber.org\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Ann Kovich; Larson, Aidan; Spieler, Christof T; Cox, Stefanie L.; Acton, Jamie M; Sanon, Reuben A; Crawley, Katie; Munger, Sam R.; Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In Response to February 5 Tragedy: Traffic Safety and Enforcement Request  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 10:01:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Greetings Transportation Commission members,

We know that many of you have been hearing from our community members on the tragic crash that took away the life of a young member of our community. Immediately after the crash and in addition to the MPD investigations, Traffic Engineering Division also assembled a rapid response team of experienced engineers and designers, and we examined the location to make sure that all the traffic control devices are in place and above requirements/standards, such as speed limit signage (25mph), pedestrian crossing signage, high visibility crosswalks markings, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, and pavement markings requiring drivers to stop/yield to pedestrians. We are also working on identifying whether there are any additional short-term and long-term improvements that we may be able to implement, such as with the upcoming reconstruction project or before that.

Please see additional information in the below communications and we plan to bring the item to the 2/18 TC meeting for updates and discussions after discussing with Chair Kovich.

Best,  
Yang

**Yang Tao, PhD, PE, PTP** (he/him/his)  
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**From:** Tao, Yang

**Sent:** Friday, February 6, 2026 10:26 PM

**To:** Katie Medema <kmedema@madison.k12.wi.us>; Joe Gothard <jgothard@madison.k12.wi.us>; Sedric H Morris Sr <shmorris@madison.k12.wi.us>; Gina R Aguglia <graguglia@madison.k12.wi.us>; TJ McCray <tjmccray@madison.k12.wi.us>; Daniel J Kigeya <djkgigeya@madison.k12.wi.us>; Deborah A Hoffman <dahoffman@madison.k12.wi.us>; Blackamore, Shannon <SBlackamore@cityofmadison.com>; Richardson, Michael <MRichardson@cityofmadison.com>; Knox Jr., Isadore <district14@cityofmadison.com>; Vidaver, Regina <district5@cityofmadison.com>; Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** RE: In Response to February 5 Tragedy: Traffic Safety and Enforcement Request

Greetings Assistant Principal Medema,

Thank you for reaching out! At the City, we were all deeply saddened by the tragic crash yesterday on Park Street. Our hearts were broken when we heard about the loss of Sasha, and our thoughts go out to his family and the West High community.

In the past two days, our partners in MPD have been working hard investigating the crash. At the City Traffic Engineering Division, we also assembled a quick response team, including some of our most experienced traffic engineers and planners. We are conducting urgent reviews, trying to understand the factors involved in the crash, checking whether there is anything we can do quickly to help with the situation, and identifying longer-term solutions to preventing this from happening again.

With the City's Vision Zero initiative launched by Mayor Satya and the Common Council, we have been tackling our traffic safety issues quite aggressively. For example, we designed and implemented a new Safe Streets Madison program and funded 237 safety projects so far, we reduced speed limits on over 60 miles of our major streets, we implemented a citywide 20 is Plenty program after piloting it in two neighborhoods, we conducted many public engagement and education events to promote a positive safety culture, and we collaborated with MPD and carried out numerous safety focused traffic enforcement campaigns targeting the City's High Injury Network. We have also been working with a large number of schools across MMSD, including West High, in developing school traffic safety plans and safe route to school plans.

We made a lot of progress on traffic safety. Since we started Vision Zero in 2020, we reduced traffic fatalities on City controlled roadways by 50%. However, yesterday's loss was a sobbing reminder that our work is far from being done. We will continue to work tirelessly on this till we achieve our Vision Zero goal.

Thank you for reaching out to collaborate on this! We appreciate your inputs, and we will look into the three locations you identified. The Vision Zero and the Traffic Engineering team will be happy to meet with you and other stakeholders. I suggest that we find a time in a week or two for us to sit down and talk. That will give folks on this email a chance to get the meeting on their calendars, allow the current investigation to complete, and give staff some time to conduct a review of the locations you mentioned. If you would like to suggest some times that work well from West High/MMSD perspective, we can coordinate with City staff and elected officials on narrowing down a time that works for most people. Before that and if needed, I will also be happy to hop on a Zoom call with you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you again and take care!

Best,  
Yang

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**From:** Katie Medema <[kmedema@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:kmedema@madison.k12.wi.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 6, 2026 3:34 PM

**To:** Joe Gothard <[jgothard@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:jgothard@madison.k12.wi.us)>; Sedric H Morris Sr <[shmorris@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:shmorris@madison.k12.wi.us)>; Gina R Aguglia <[graguglia@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:graguglia@madison.k12.wi.us)>; TJ McCray <[tjmccray@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:tjmccray@madison.k12.wi.us)>; Daniel J Kigeya <[djkigeya@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:djkigeya@madison.k12.wi.us)>; Deborah A Hoffman <[dahoffman@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:dahoffman@madison.k12.wi.us)>; Blackamore, Shannon <[SBlackamore@cityofmadison.com](mailto:SBlackamore@cityofmadison.com)>; Richardson, Michael <[MRichardson@cityofmadison.com](mailto:MRichardson@cityofmadison.com)>; Knox Jr., Isadore <[district14@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district14@cityofmadison.com)>; Vidaver, Regina <[district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com)>; Evers, Tag <[district13@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district13@cityofmadison.com)>; Tao, Yang <[YTao@cityofmadison.com](mailto:YTao@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** In Response to February 5 Tragedy: Traffic Safety and Enforcement Request

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

Dear Members of the City Traffic Committee, MPD Leadership, Alders and MMSD Leadership,

I am writing on behalf of Madison West High School to request immediate traffic safety support, enforcement, and coordinated next steps at several high-risk pedestrian locations involving our students, specifically Regent Street at Vista, Ash Street at Chadbourne, and Park Street at Burr Oak.

This outreach is prompted by the unfortunate and devastating loss of one of our students, a 17-year-old who was tragically killed while walking in a crosswalk on Park Street on Thursday. This incident has deeply impacted our school community and underscores the urgent need for enhanced traffic safety measures and enforcement to protect students moving to and from school.

### Areas of Concern and Requests

#### 1. Regent Street at Vista

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- One of the crosswalks on Regent Street and Vista currently does not have flashing pedestrian lights, despite heavy student use before
- and after school.
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- We are requesting:
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  - Additional flashing pedestrian signals on all crosswalks on Regent and Vista
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  - Increased MPD traffic enforcement and monitoring, during
  - arrival and dismissal hours.

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- Intentional focus on vehicles failing to obey traffic signals or yield to students in crosswalks
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## 2. Ash Street at Chadbourne

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- The Ash Street crossing at Chadbourne is another heavily used student crossing that lacks flashing pedestrian lights.
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- We are requesting:
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  - Review and installation of enhanced pedestrian safety measures
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  - 
  - 
  - MPD enforcement and monitoring to ensure vehicles are yielding to students in the crosswalk
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## 3. Park Street at Burr Oak

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- Given that the fatal incident occurred on Park Street

- at Burr Oak, we are requesting increased traffic enforcement and oversight in this corridor, particularly during the hours of 7:15-7:45a and 3:45-4:30p.
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- Students must cross six lanes of traffic on Park Street to access the Metro bus stop, creating a significant and ongoing safety concern.
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- Additional visibility and enforcement are critical to reinforcing pedestrian right-of-way and safe driving behaviors in an area with
- significant student foot traffic.
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Madison West High School serves a large population of students who walk, bike, and rely on public transportation daily. The conditions outlined above present serious and persistent safety risks. Proactive enforcement, infrastructure review, and cross-agency coordination are essential steps in preventing future tragedies and in honoring the life that was lost.

We would welcome the opportunity to sit down together with City Traffic, MPD, Alders and MMSD Leadership to discuss these concerns in greater detail and to identify clear, actionable next steps. Please let me know your availability, and I will gladly coordinate a time.

Thank you for your leadership, partnership, and continued commitment to student safety.

Sincerely,  
Katie Medema

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**Katie Medema**  
Assistant Principal  
Madison West High School  
608.204.3205

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