

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: tom.mohr@cityofmadison.com
Cc: [Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Legalizing traffic violations on Regent and elsewhere
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:04:45 PM

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Dear Mr. Mohr,

The rationale that I've heard you make for street parking on Regent Street is essentially this (not a direct quote, so let me know if you feel I'm misrepresenting you):

Delivery drivers are going to park directly outside the business they're delivering to regardless, even if that constitutes a traffic violation. Therefore we should make what they want to do legal for them to do.

I deeply take issue with this, and I hope that by addressing it now, perhaps we can avoid this kind of thing from cropping up again on other projects.

This is the same line of reasoning that has historically been used to justify unsafe speed limits. Let's say you know that 25 mph is the safe speed for a given street, but people go 35 there today, and they're just going to keep going 35 even if you change the speed limit, so why bother making their behavior illegal?

For one, this denies these drivers' own agency and autonomy in making their own poor, illegal choices, preemptively making those poor, illegal choices for them, and never even giving them the chance to decide for themselves under different circumstances.

And for another, this idea, that we should cater to criminals because they'll keep committing crimes regardless--is simply not how the rule of law works. You could make the same case for driving under the influence (or any number of criminal violations). People do it, people will continue to do it even though it's illegal, so we might as well make it legal. But that argument completely omits very real and important impacts on policy and public health.

I'm not writing today to dispute whether there should or should not be street parking on Regent Street. But if there is a worthy argument for including that, this one is not it. I hope this feedback enables a better discussion about the Regent Street project on Wednesday, and to help recognize this fallacy in other contexts where it might crop up.

Thank you,

Nick Davies