



Department of Public Works

## Streets Division – Urban Forestry

Charlie Romines, Superintendent

1402 Wingra Creek Pkwy.

Madison, WI 53715

Phone: (608) 266-4816 | Fax: (608) 267-8696

[streets@cityofmadison.com](mailto:streets@cityofmadison.com)

[cityofmadison.com/forestry](http://cityofmadison.com/forestry)

November 7, 2023

Subject: Mineral Point Road Widened Sidewalk  
East West Bus Rapid Transit Project

Madison's East West Bus Rapid Transit project extends 15 miles from Junction Road through East Washington Ave and onto East Spring Dr. About 2.5 miles of this BRT line travels on Mineral Point Road from the Beltline to Whitney Way. The project will include a widened sidewalk on the north side of Mineral Point Road. Installation of the sidewalk will impact trees, though Forestry, Transportation, and Engineering have worked to reduce canopy impacts where possible.

Preservation of mature trees is important to the City of Madison. Large canopy trees provide benefits including storm water interception, air pollution mitigation and energy savings. Young trees can take decades to grow to maturity and there is an associated loss of canopy benefits during that time. Reduction of the sidewalk width to 5 feet at four locations, for a total of 800 feet in length, will preserve 16 mature healthy trees. Forestry appreciates the flexibility and understanding of the Transportation team to incorporate this adjustment.

There are a series of 8 terrace trees east of Randolph Drive that are small stature and overall fair to poor condition. These trees are currently providing limited canopy benefits. Due to their current condition they would likely further decline if there were any soil disturbance associated with widening the sidewalk. Forestry is supportive of removal of the trees to facilitate installation of the full width sidewalk accompanied by replanting of healthy new trees and improved soil conditions at the conclusion of the project. This will provide increased future canopy benefits for the community.

The BRT and associated sidewalk widening along Mineral Point Road will have tree impacts. Forestry has collaborated with project partners to thoughtfully balance tree canopy preservation with the impact to the new widened sidewalk infrastructure.

Respectfully,

Ian Brown  
City Forester  
City of Madison Streets and Urban Forestry