



Department of Transportation

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Director's Report – December 13, 2023

The paragraphs below summarize some of the key efforts and events that occurred this past fall. There are lots of federal funding announcements that we have been working on for years. Additionally, several construction projects with Metro and Parking are starting within these next two months.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Lynch, PE, PTOE, PTP, AICP
Director of Transportation
City of Madison

E-W BRT

- Construction continues on BRT stations. Over the winter, some structures are being fabricated off-site and will be placed individually on stations. Work on stations on the square and State St will start late winter to avoid the shopping season. You can learn more about station construction at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/bus-rapid-transit/east-west-brt-line>.
- On November 16, 2023, the FTA formally awarded Madison \$110.6 million in a press conference, which we are already starting to draw from. This is largest grant ever received by Madison.
- We are scheduled to receive our first BRT bus this December, with the remaining 59 buses to be received by this summer.
- Mineral Pt Road widened sidewalk (without reduced sidewalk) passed the council on December 5, and will be let in January. This path will provide a much needed east-west facility for 2.5 miles.

Metro Transit – Other News

- The city awarded the construction contract for Metro Transit's Hanson Road facility the week of December 4th. This roughly \$16 million remodel is important because it will house and charge the BRT buses. You can learn more about the project at this website. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/metro-transit-hanson-road-satellite-bus-facility-remodel>
- In October, metro transit carried over 1 million passengers – a significant increase from last year. You can see the announcement here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2023-11-30/metro-ridership-surges-past-1-million-rides-for-october>

N-S BRT

- Transportation staff held several public meetings to gather feedback. Staff have also interacted with and will continue to interact with key stakeholders along the corridor, including WisDOT and Dane County Highways.

- The schedule seeks to have a Locally Preferred Alternative by late winter of 2024.
- FTA will issue a report on ratings and funding recommendations in March of 2024.

Amtrak

- On December 7, the Federal Rail Administration announced that the State of Wisconsin is entered in the Corridor ID program. Wisconsin DOT submitted on behalf of all corridors within the state. You can see more at <https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2023-12/FY22%20CID%20Project%20Summaries-Map.pdf> Wisconsin Corridors approved include
 - Milwaukee-Madison-Eau Claire-Twin Cities (up to \$500k)
 - TCMC Service Expansion (up to \$500k)
 - Milwaukee to Green Bay (up to \$500k)
 - Milwaukee to Chicago Service expansion (up to \$500k)
- Next steps are for WisDOT to negotiate an agreement with FRA, and for them to develop service planning.
- Madison continues to evaluate station sites within the City, with a presentation to TC scheduled for January.

Parking

- The State Street Campus Garage bids were received. The successful bidder provided a price roughly \$12 to \$13 million, easing concerns regarding being able to move forward with the project.
- There are several key milestones between the City, the contractor, and the developer before January 1 2024. However if met, the existing SSCG garage will begin demolition in January of 2024.
- The increase in rates for Parking Garages was approved by Transportation Commission on November 8th and will go into effect January 2024.

Federal Funding

- We have been interacting with the US DOT, suggesting that our Safe Streets for All application has a good chance of being funded. If selected, this grant would provide would be over \$6 million in federal funding for our Safe Streets Madison program.
- It is believed that US DOT will announce their Reconnecting Communities grants in December. Madison applied for \$1 million in planning monies for the Perry St overpass.

WisDOT Projects

- I-39/90/94 Project – WisDOT is narrowing their alternatives. Both the Hoepker Rd and Milwaukee St interchanges will be incorporated into the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The WisDOT website is here: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/399094/default.aspx>
- Stoughton Road Projects – WisDOT is narrowing the Stoughton Rd/East Washington Ave alternatives to four. There are challenges regarding a shared use path along the north portion of Stoughton Rd due to objections from Dane County Airport. We are seeing if we can work through issues. More can be learned about them at this website: <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/sw/us51-corridor/default.aspx>