

From: [Bill Connors](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Baumel, Christie](#)
Subject: Smart Growth Comment re Stormwater Ordinance Legistar 86851
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 3:47:39 PM

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Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders:


On behalf of Smart Growth Greater Madison, I am writing to you regarding the latest update to Madison's stormwater regulations, Legistar 86851. This proposed ordinance is item 33 on the agenda for the Common Council meeting on Tuesday, March 11.

Smart Growth does not oppose this ordinance.

However, we would like you to be aware of the practical consequences of one provision in the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance permits the connection of a private stormwater pipe to the public storm sewer, but this connection requires city staff to approve a "privilege in streets" application. I am writing to inform you that it takes an extraordinarily long time to obtain a "privilege in streets" approval from Madison engineering staff. This has a substantial adverse impact on redevelopment and infill development projects in Madison.

Similarly, it takes extraordinarily long time to obtain (a) Madison engineering designs of public infrastructure improvements associated with private development projects and (b) development agreements.

As you are aware, Heather Stouder is leading a staff effort to reduce the amount of time it takes to complete the process of clearing the large number of conditions that are placed on a land use approval (e.g., rezoning or a Conditional Use Permit) granted by the Common Council or Plan Commission, and I believe that project includes addressing the length of time it takes to obtain a development agreement. But to the best of my knowledge, the scope of that staff effort does not include addressing the extraordinarily long time it takes to obtain a "privilege in streets" approval nor the extraordinarily long time it takes to obtain engineering designs of public infrastructure improvements related to private development projects.

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