

To: Ad-Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee
From: Gary Tipler
Re: Concerning Vibration during Construction
June 25, 2015

The issue concerning vibration of road construction and new building construction equipment is a topic of grave concern among the owners of many 19th and early 20 Century houses in my neighborhood and elsewhere in Madison.

While this is presently in discussion with city engineering at the neighborhood level, it begs the question as to why this isn't a concern throughout historic districts. While a partial solution is presently being proposed that may bring about more careful means of construction near Madison Landmarks, it would make sense to treat all properties similarly within a designated historic district the same, rather than selecting a few around which vibrations should be monitored and a maximum standard applied. Our houses are within a Madison Landmark District and a historic district on both the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Virtually all owners of older buildings with whom I've spoken report slight-to-moderate cracking and shifting during street construction. The damaging vibrations of street construction equipment should be a consideration for these historic districts for the four buildings identified in a proposal for the Third Lake Ridge Historic District.

These districts contribute to the attractiveness and economy of the small parts of Madison in which they're located – maybe a bit too attractive considering all the pressure to tear them down. Alders and commissioners should acknowledge that these buildings and the investments in them by people who happen to like these neighborhoods deserve a little more care. Enacting such standard protections could eliminate the present method of preparedness, where owners with proper "before" photo documents have to chase after construction insurance companies for years to get any damages. Let's have historic district buildings that don't have to be repaired after street construction projects and continue to thrive as great places in which to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Tipler
807 Jenifer Street, Madison, WI