

From: [Nicholas Davies](#)
To: [Weichelt, John](#); [Knepp, Eric](#); [Mayor](#); [Biking and Walking](#)
Cc: [Park Commission](#); [Transportation Commission](#); [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#); chief@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Re: Ride the Drive 2026 Cancellation Notice
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 5:59:11 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi John,

This is disappointing of course, but it's much more than that too.

Madison already had the world's most pitiful [ciclovía](#). We only do it once a year instead of once a week (and it used to be twice per year). We had already rerouted it off of John Nolen Drive at the very time when John Nolen Drive baseline traffic is already at its lowest. And then we've already been cancelling this event--at great expense--about 50% of the time.

And now, just because East Siders had the audacity to demand that a killer be arrested, this celebrated event is being cancelled entirely as punishment for that.

It's going to take time for MPD to repair the damage they've done to their reputation with the community, particularly after all the assaults they've committed today, but Ride the Drive is exactly the kind of event that allows MPD officers to have a visible, positive impact. Taking that away is not going to help.

I don't know where we go from here. Madison deserves a proper ciclovía. We deserve one this weekend, and next weekend, and every weekend. But can this be a city program, if the city is so utterly bad at making it happen?

Thanks,

Nick Davies

On Tue, Aug 4, 2026 at 3:27 PM Weichelt, John <JWeichelt@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Thank you for volunteering for Ride the Drive 2026 and for reserving time on your calendar to support the event. Unfortunately, Ride the Drive, scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2026, has been canceled.

We know many of you completed training, selected shifts, helped recruit others, or otherwise prepared for the event. We sincerely appreciate the time, enthusiasm, and commitment you offered. Your willingness to help make Ride the Drive possible is truly valued.

No further action is needed regarding your volunteer shift (*you may receive an additional email indicating your shift has been canceled*). Thank you for your understanding and flexibility. We are grateful for your continued support of Madison Parks and hope you will join us for future volunteer opportunities.

Below is a statement from Parks Superintendent Eric Knepp regarding the event.

“After careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Ride the Drive scheduled for Sunday, August 9. We know many community members were looking forward to the event and we share this disappointment. Canceling Ride the Drive was not a decision we made lightly. Decisions like this are never easy, especially an event that brings people together. While the intersection of Williamson and Baldwin streets is now open, we believe holding Ride the Drive would continue to disrupt the neighborhood and businesses. We appreciate everyone's understanding, and most importantly, the continued resilience of the neighborhood and city.” – Eric Knepp, Madison Parks Superintendent

Let us know if you have any questions.

Best,

John Weichelt

Volunteer Coordinator

608-445-5086 Cell

608-261-9179 Office

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PARKS**