

**From:** [Alex Saloutos](#)  
**To:** [Brist, Steven](#)  
**Cc:** [Freedman, Jason](#); [Haas, Michael R](#); [Mayor](#); [Vidaver, Regina](#); [Transportation Commission](#); ["astracka@cityofmadison.com"](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Violation of MGO 10.24 today by Wis. & Southern RR  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 9:25:27 AM

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Thanks for the quick response, Steve! I didn't know this. –Alex

P.S.: For what it's worth, it appears the customer that the W&S RR was servicing is the UW –Madison, which is the only enterprise I know of with a siding in this area.

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**From:** "Brist, Steven" <SBrist@cityofmadison.com>  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 at 8:50 AM  
**To:** Alex Saloutos <asaloutos@tds.net>  
**Cc:** "Freedman, Jason" <JFreedman@cityofmadison.com>, Michael Haas <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>, Satya Rhodes-Conway <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>, Regina Vidaver <district5@cityofmadison.com>, Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@cityofmadison.com>, "'astracka@cityofmadison.com'" <astracka@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Violation of MGO 10.24 today by Wis. & Southern RR

Dear Mr. Saloutos:

The Mayor's staff referred your email regarding the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad blocking the University Avenue crossing to me. Unfortunately, federal law and regulations have preempted our ability to enforce Sec. 10.24 MGO. We are unable to limit the time a crossing is blocked, even if emergency vehicles are stopped. Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of City Officials.

Steve Brist

Steven C. Brist

Assistant City Attorney

City of Madison-- Office of the City Attorney 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Room 401 Madison, WI 53703 telephone 608-266-4511 fax. 608-267-8715

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**From:** Alex Saloutos <[asaloutos@tds.net](mailto:asaloutos@tds.net)>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 31, 2022 2:32 PM

**To:** [astracka@cityofmadison.com](mailto:astracka@cityofmadison.com)

**Cc:** Freedman, Jason <[JFreedman@cityofmadison.com](mailto:JFreedman@cityofmadison.com)>; Haas, Michael R <[MHaas@cityofmadison.com](mailto:MHaas@cityofmadison.com)>; Mayor <[Mayor@cityofmadison.com](mailto:Mayor@cityofmadison.com)>; Vidaver, Regina <[district5@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district5@cityofmadison.com)>; Transportation Commission <[TransportationCommission@cityofmadison.com](mailto:TransportationCommission@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Violation of MGO 10.24 today by Wis. & Southern RR

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Ms Stracka:

I understand that you are the sergeant on duty this afternoon for the Mid-Town Police District. I am writing regarding a violation of [MGO 10.24](#) that occurred this afternoon:

1. At about 12:00 pm today, July 31, 2022, I was driving my car eastbound on Campus Drive.
2. As I approached the intersection with University Ave, vehicle traffic was stopped because of a train, which was operated by Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, was stopped, blocking the railroad crossing on University Avenue between Randall St and Breese Terrace.
3. Traffic was stopped by this train for some time when I looked for the first time at the clock in my car at 12:05 pm.
4. At 12:23 pm I was able to make a right turn onto University Ave and I left the area. At this time, the train was still stopped and blocking traffic in both directions on University Ave.
5. At 12:43 I spoke with Kari Stephens, the dispatcher for WATCO, parent of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, who was handling dispatch duties for this area. During the phone call Stephens put me on hold so she could contact the crew operating the train by radio to see what the situation was. When she returned to the call, she stated that they were transferring cars to a customer and that's the reason the train was stopped, blocking the intersection.

Based on the foregoing facts, this appears to be one or more violations of MGO 10.24. Will citation(s) be issued to the crew and the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad for these violations? Given the length of the infractions and the severity of the problems this violation caused, I hope they are fined the maximum amount allowed in the ordinance.

Thank you for your attention to this! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cheers,

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Alex Saloutos

Cell: (608) [REDACTED]

Email: [asaloutos@tds.net](mailto:asaloutos@tds.net)