



Department of Transportation

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Director's Report – June 10, 2024

The paragraphs below summarize some of the key efforts and events that occurred this spring. The amount of resources directed toward the Lake St Garage, E-W BRT, and N-S BRT is substantial. We continue to plan for an early fall opening of the E-W BRT.

Sincerely,

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

E-W BRT

- Construction continues on BRT stations, with most structures in place. Critical path items are the technology pieces, such as monitors and cameras.
- Planning to launch the new fare system, a prerequisite for the BRT, prior to school starting. It is on schedule, but there are a lot of moving parts.
- BRT is on track to open this fall, perhaps early fall. Contractor progress in the coming months will ultimately determine the opening date.

N-S BRT

- The Locally Preferred Alternative was approved in both Madison and Fitchburg Councils in May and June of 2024.
- This BRT route provides access to:
 - 53,000 people
 - 40,000 more jobs
 - 43 schools and childcare centers
 - 10 grocery stores and 4 hospitals.
 - Of those within a half mile of the route, 20 percent are car-free households, 40 percent are people of color, and almost 10 percent are those experiencing some type of disability.
- Obtaining agreement for BRT implementation on WisDOT and Dane County Highways has proven challenging.

N-S BRT project development combined with accelerating construction on the E-W BRT has required significant effort from staff. Both projects individually are the largest projects the City has undertaken. Staff are working nights and weekends to keep things on track. The significant effort being devoted to BRT to make it a success is causing some delay in other initiatives.

Amtrak

- We are narrowing down potential sites and are likely to have a public meeting in mid-summer.

Parking

- The State Street Campus Garage construction is slightly behind schedule due to poor soils and weather conditions. We have a target release date that is financially important for the city to meet. Madison construction staff are doing a good job.

Reconnecting Communities

- We have been in preliminary discussions with WisDOT over our \$1 million Reconnecting Communities grant agreement. Hope to have a grant agreement in place by early fall.

Curb Management Plan

- We have had a scoping meeting or two for the Curb Management plan. It is not likely to start until fall/winter of 2024. It will be an 18-to-24-month effort that will result in a lengthy policy document. Scope will include changing RP3, loading zones, on-street parking fees and methodologies, etc. This project is not a small effort and we need to provide closure on Amtrak and BRT prior to starting.

WisDOT Projects

- I-39/90/94 Project – WisDOT shared their preliminary noise modeling and proposed noise walls with City staff. Their DEIS is scheduled for release in June of 2024.
- Stoughton Road Projects
 - North Stoughton Rd – WisDOT released their draft preferred alternative at the end of May. It generally follows Madison’s requests, except that it includes a jug-handle at East Washington and an at-grade intersection at Commercial.
 - South Stoughton Rd – WisDOT is still in the alternative development stage, evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of different concepts.