

Bus Lane Capture on Johnson Street and East Washington Avenue

6-24-2020

Background: The Transportation Department is seeking approval to install two new bus lanes that will help Metro maintain its schedules and reduce travel times for bus passengers, while implementing some of the bus lanes needed for bus rapid transit.

These projects are proposed to move forward ahead of the BRT project for a few reasons. First, as Madison residents recover from the impacts of COVID-19, faster and more reliable public transit will help people get used to riding transit again. Second, establishing the parking lane on East Washington Avenue will be easier now than later should the land uses on the corridor intensify.

The project consists of signing and marking only. Transportation staff are developing plans and are working to establish a consistent and allowable standard for marking bus lanes. The capital costs of implementation will be covered by BRT project funds. The implementation would happen in Fall 2020.

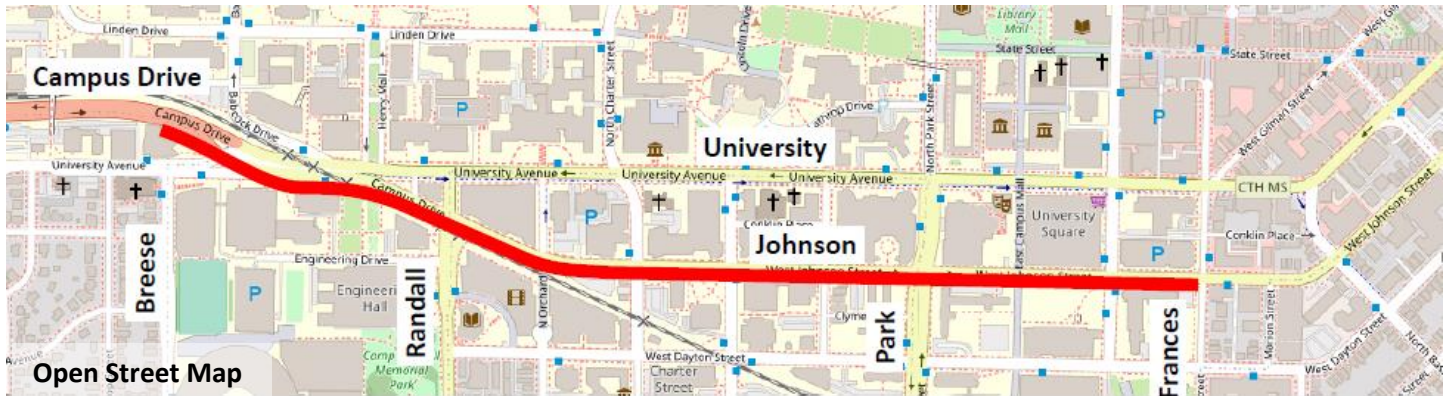
UW staff and Alder Abbas have been contacted and are supportive of the project.

The two segments are shown on the page below.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the implementation of an eastbound bus lane on Campus Drive and Johnson Street between Breese Terrace and Frances Street, and a westbound bus lane on East Washington Avenue between Hwy 30 and Seventh Street in Fall 2020.

See next page.

West Johnson Street from Breeze Terrace to Frances Street: The majority of this segment is currently a four-lane cross section with one-way traffic, no parking, and no bike lanes. The plan is to convert the right-hand lane to bus only. Eastbound on Campus Drive, two lanes widen to three at the approach to University Avenue, the third lane would be converted to bus only. The design is slightly more complex between Campus Drive and Randall Avenue but the bus lane will be mostly continuous. Bikes will be allowed in the lane but much better bike facilities are provided on University Avenue and Dayton Street.



East Washington Avenue westbound from Hwy 30 to Seventh Street: There is an underutilized parking lane and bike in the westbound direction only on this segment. The plan is to convert this lane to buses, bikes, and right turns only. The parking is used to a higher degree between Milwaukee Street and Seventh Street by people going to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Parking on this block will be allowed on Sundays, weekends, or using a similar schedule. There is one curb extension at Oak Street which makes the bus lane discontinuous, which may be removed at a later time.

