



Department of Transportation

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Director's Report – Sept 20, 2021

The focus over the next two months will be budget related, both for the City and on the National level. Several major initiatives – Vision Zero, Network Redesign, TDM, and BRT plans – will have documents released by year's end.

Sincerely,

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

Other

- Bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill INVEST In America Act – The “earmarks” have not made it into the current bill, which will be voted on Sept 27. There is a possibility the earmarks could be inserted into the bill with reconciliation.
- Meetings with Amtrak indicate that passenger rail will be funded, but will flow through the FRA rather than Amtrak. There is interest in bringing the Hiwatha line to Madison, yet there are hurdles. Madison's proposed Capital Budget includes about \$120k for station and route studies associated with passenger rail. This could be combined with FRA grant monies to increase the scope of the studies.

BRT

- Meeting with Historic Consulting Parties to describe project effects. Presentation to Landmarks Commission on Sept 20.
- Next phase of the Design Contract, taking the project to roughly 90%, being introduced into Council on Sept 21. Being referred to TPPB
- BRT Public Information Meetings on 9/29, and 10/7, 10/14. The meetings will show the 30 percent design, as well as renderings of some of the BRT stations on East Washington, the Square, State Street, and Whitney Way.
- Several meetings with WisDOT over BRT operations on East Washington. I think we are close to an agreement and an acceptance of some delay in favor of transit operations.
- Next steps include finishing the Environmental Document (which includes sign-off by State Historical Society) and obtaining Third Party agreements with Village of Shorewood Hills, Dane County, and Sun Prairie.

Transit - Other

- Wisconsin Transit Funding – Governor Evers provided \$5.2 million in ARRA funding to Metro Transit. This replaces about 60% of the \$8.5 million funding reduction the legislature gave to Metro Transit in the 2022-23 budget for Tier A systems (Madison and Milwaukee).
- Network Redesign – The project documents are posted on the web at the following locations. They are informative and worth reading.
 - <https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/documents/network-redesign/Alternatives-Report-pt1.pdf>
 - https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/documents/network-redesign/Alternatives-Report_Appendicies.pdf
- Public Involvement Meeting 9/23. After this meeting, a combination network will be developed.

Transportation Demand Management

- Gave informational presentation to Smart Growth Madison in mid-August.
- Point value and category revisions have been developed. Continuing to investigate how to handle detached residential housing. Plan on presenting at October 4 TPPB, then moving forward with proposed ordinance.

Parking Enforcement

- Continue to work with Engineering and Facilities on options for housing the PEOs. The Pennsylvania site shows less promise due to capital improvements needed for the building.
- Working on purchasing processes for PEO supplies, such as uniforms, etc.

Parking Garages

- There is a potential developer/hotelier to occupy the site formally housing the Government East garage. Parking agreement goes before TC on Sept 22.
- Received 7 proposals for the State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use. Initial concepts will be presented to Finance Committee on 9/27. Proposals can be seen at this link:
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/state-street-campus-garage-mixed-use-project/3643/>

Vision Zero

- Twenty is Plenty – Signs are up in Pilot neighborhoods. Full City implementation is in 2022 Capital Budget.
- Vision Zero Action Plan is being revised, with evaluation metrics and greater discussion of VMT reduction in safety. Will be presented at the Oct 4 TPPB.
- East Washington – Streetlight data shows that speed reduction has made a difference reducing speeds exceeding 40 mph. Week of 9/20 we will be testing tubular markers as a threshold treatment at an unsignalized intersection.
- Speed reduction projects on Whitney Way Beltline to Raymond (Sept 13) and Sheboygan to Tokay (Sept 27)
- Buffered Bike lane being installed on Whitney Way. Working with WisDOT to create a low-cost pedestrian (temporary) walkway on the southside of Milwaukee Street as it crosses over the interstate. Hopefully this can be installed prior to the end of the year.

Complete Green Streets

- Toole Design Group is working on typology context and networks.
Online survey is active at: www.cityofmadison.com/talkstreets - closes Sept 28.