

**From:** [william dye](#)  
**To:** [All Alders](#); [Matthews, Julia](#); [Rhodes-Conway, Satya V.](#); [Mayor](#); [Madison Mayor](#); [Plan Commission Comments](#); [Traffic](#); [Traffic Field Ops](#)  
**Subject:** Severe Traffic Impacts from Ongoing Downtown Construction  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 4:53:52 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Dear City of Madison Leaders, Engineers, and Committee Members,

As you are likely aware, entering and leaving downtown Madison has become extremely difficult since the John Nolen Drive project began. Traffic congestion has increased dramatically, and all major alternate routes—including West Washington Avenue and Park Street—are also restricted to a single lane. Plus, this week East Gorham is down to one lane.

These overlapping lane closures have created significant gridlock for commuters and visitors alike. The city's estimate of an “8-minute average delay” does not reflect reality; in our experience, travel times between the Beltline and downtown are often increased by **20 to 45 minutes**.

We live in **Alder Julia Matthews' District 12**, and my wife owns a small business downtown. She has seen a **drastic decline in customer traffic and sales** since construction began. Many customers comment on the **difficulty and time required** to reach downtown, compounded by ongoing **parking challenges**.

We ask that the City urgently reassess traffic management strategies and communication about these projects. Could you please consider:

- Adjusting signal timing or lane configurations to ease peak-hour congestion
- Providing real-time traffic updates and clearer detour signage
- Coordinating construction schedules to prevent simultaneous lane closures on key corridors

We appreciate the long-term benefits of infrastructure improvements, but the current level of disruption is unsustainable for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Dye  
Brentwood and Downtown neighborhoods