

**From:** [Mohelnitzky, Hannah](#)  
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# THE E.

*A newsletter for the Engineering Division*



**August 2024 Issue**

## **A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:**

In the last month, City agencies have submitted Operating Budget requests for 2025, and a huge thank you to Steve Danner-Rivers and Kathy Cryan for all of your work to put the Engineering budgets together. All of the budget requests can be found the [Finance Department's website](#). As has been discussed, the City is facing a challenging Operating Budget for next year, and the Mayor's Office sent out an excellent update and summary on the [City's 2025 Operating Budget](#). On August 6, residents provided public comment to Common Council on a potential referendum for this fall election, and the Council will vote on a referendum at a special meeting on August 20. As always, if you have any questions related to the budget or budget process, please feel free to reach out to your supervisor. We'll continue to provide updates on the City's budget as it continues to move through the process.

-Jim

**Engineering's Paul Carroll Earns #TeamCity Mayor's Choice Award**



In July, Paul Carroll was honored among other City employees as part of the City's latest round of #TeamCity Awards. These awards highlight the work of exceptional City employees and their dedication. Below is the link recording of Paul's portion of the program, and the full copy of statement from the Mayor's remarks:

*"Paul is a daytime Custodial Worker at the Engineering Building. Sometimes doing a good job means your work goes unnoticed, and that's often the case with custodial work. Keeping a space clean and healthy so other staff can do their work efficiently is critical, and Paul does exactly that for the Engineering team. On top of that, he does this every day with enthusiasm and a smile his face. He brings curiosity and friendship into a work environment that is often hectic and full of distractions. Paul's outstanding attitude day-in and day-out and his constant readiness to help are truly commendable. Paul is an avid biker, a long-time personal computing powerhouse, an accomplished moviegoer, and is absolutely passionate about all the unique culinary options around town. He has worked with the City since 2016. Paul was nominated by Jon Evans, an Engineer 4."*

Nominate a colleague today with the [#TeamCity employee nomination form](#) or [#TeamCity team nomination form](#). Please submit the [#TeamCity nomination form](#) to Ilknur Uludag, [IUludag@cityofmadison.com](mailto:IUludag@cityofmadison.com), or mail the form through inter-departmental mail to Ilknur Uludag at Fleet, 4151 Nakoosa Trail. [Learn more on the #TeamCity webpage](#).

Watch Paul Earn his Award: <https://youtu.be/YBaFTFEeN1c>

## Equity Minute: August is National Wellness Month

August is National Wellness Month and was created in 2018 by Live Love Spa. This was brought about as a way to remind people to prioritize themselves. It is important to take care of yourself mentally, physically, and emotionally. Since this month is about prioritizing yourself and your health, here are some examples of how to do that:

- Walking
- Journaling
- Listening to Music
- Doing Your Favorite Hobby
- Decluttering your Space

## American Red Cross to Host Blood Donation Event in August in MMB

City Employees are welcome to donate blood with a scheduled appointment anytime between 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 20, 2024, at the **Madison Municipal Building in Room 215**.



**City County Employees  
Blood Drive  
Madison Municipal Building**

Room 215  
215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: CityCountyMadison

Walk-ins welcome!

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.

All presenting donors will be entered for a chance to win a 2024 Edition of the Wisconsin Reel Craft Pass. This booklet allows you to receive a "Buy one get one free drink offer at participating locations" One time use at each participating location.

**Donors needed! Come give blood in August for \$20  
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See  
rcblood.org/Help**



**Be part of something big. Make an appointment.**

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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## Still impacted by the CrowdStrike Outage? IT has these directions

IT continues to restore services impacted by the CrowdStrike outage incident, including City workstations. The fix for this issue must be completed on each individual impacted City workstation. Step-by-step instructions for resolving this issue are on the IT Service Center (accessible via any web browser): [Crowdstrike BSOD Instructions](#)

## Project Photo Update: Lake Mendota Drive



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**Everyday Engineering Podcast With New Episodes Coming!**



The Everyday Engineering Podcast is up and running on a more regular basis again with six new episodes coming. Make sure to subscribe to Everyday Engineering on iTunes and watch for these upcoming episodes featuring your coworkers and their expertise on topics and projects:

- **Transportation Demand Management**  
Guests: Liz Callin and Trent Shultz
- **The Madison Lakes are Beautiful But... How Do They Get So Yucky?**  
Guests: Phil Gaebler, Eric Booth
- **New Signs Coming to A Neighborhood Near You: 20 is Plenty**  
Guest: Jeremy Nash
- **Just Don't Do It, Illicit Dumping and Contractor Questions**  
Guest: Phil Gaebler
- **Life's Blueprint: Paul Lauby and the Career of a Construction Inspector**  
Guest: Paul Lauby
- **The Grass is Greener on Stormwater Land, Mowing**  
Guests: John Toso, Maddie Dumas

Don't miss an upcoming episode! <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/madisons-everyday-engineering/id1476609194>



## 2024 Wisconsin Transportation Annual Magazine Features Madison Projects

The City of Madison is highlighted multiple times in the 2024 Wisconsin Transportation Annual Publication including: BRT's federal funding, Safe Streets Program and more! Read the full issue here:

<https://witransportationannual.com/2024/>

## FEDERAL INVESTMENTS THAT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE TRANSIT IN MADISON

The transportation landscape in the city of Madison is undergoing significant changes. In Nov. 2023, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded the city of Madison \$110 million to facilitate the development of an innovative East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. This BRT system represents a substantial upgrade to the existing bus system, providing enhanced reliability and improved services for commuters. Subsequently, the FTA further demonstrated its support by allocating an additional \$18 million for the project in President Biden's proposed 2025 budget. This funding is intended to assist the city of Madison in implementing a second BRT system that will operate along a North-South route. These investments are a testament to a commitment to improving public transportation and accessibility within the city.

The East-West Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system project in Madison is an upcoming public transportation initiative that will introduce a fleet of modern, environmentally friendly, battery-electric buses to the city's transit system. The new

BRT system will span a 15-mile route, connecting the west side of Madison to the city of Sun Prairie in the northeast. The route is strategically designed to include key areas such as the UW-Madison campus, Downtown Madison and the East Towne Mall area. Enhancing connectivity and accessibility for passengers in these important locations within the region will greatly improve mobility and connectivity throughout the city, as well as to the surrounding areas. Stops are expected to be made every 15 minutes and the BRT's features will allow for the bus to maintain reliable and accurate timing.

The new BRT system aims to reduce traffic congestion on the busiest roads in the region. The city of Madison will be constructing new bus stations with features such as level boarding for easier access, improved shelters to provide better protection from the elements, real-time bus arrival information to keep passengers informed and security cameras to enhance safety and security for all commuters. These features are all a part of the BRT system to make it as efficient and user-friendly as possible.



## CITY OF MADISON WORKS TO ELIMINATE ROADWAY FATALITIES WITH SAFE STREETS PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that Wisconsin communities have been granted a total of \$12.3 million through the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, aimed at enhancing roadway safety. Notably, the city of Madison is set to receive more than half of this funding. Over \$6.3 million will be allocated specifically for the implementation of its Vision Zero project, a comprehensive initiative aimed at significantly reducing roadway fatalities within the city.

Wisconsin received funding from the SS4A program in two rounds of the fiscal year 2023 (FY2023) distribution. The SS4A program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), with \$5 billion in appropriated funds to be awarded over five years from 2022 to 2026. The city of Madison's \$6.3 million award came as part of the second round of funding as an implementation grant. These types of grants support the execution of initiatives and projects aimed at actively addressing the objectives of the SS4A program, which is focused on improving the safety of roadways.

The city of Madison is using its grant award to fund and implement its Forward to Vision Zero: Safe System for Vulnerable Roadway Users projects. Vision Zero is an initiative aimed at achieving zero traffic fatalities or serious injuries on the road. The initiative was originally developed in Sweden in 1997 but has since become a global strategy used by many departments in an effort to accomplish the same goal. The city of Madison's adaptation of Vision Zero projects aims to enhance safety conditions on the city's roads, as well as improve mobility and accessibility for its residents.

"Making streets safer for everyone is one of my top priorities. This is about making sure everyone arrives safely, and that no family loses a loved one in a traffic crash," Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said in a press release from Dec. 2023. "I'm grateful to President Biden for making these funds available to cities. This grant will accelerate our work on Vision Zero and allow us to continue to make Madison safe for people walking, biking, taking transit and driving."



Media Snapshot July 2024



Photo Caption: ENG PIO Intern Maggie Spinney met WKOW Evening Anchor Brandon Taylor during a tour and discussion we had with WKOW's News Director Dani Maxwell. Dani hosted us with other AASPIRE interns (in photo below).





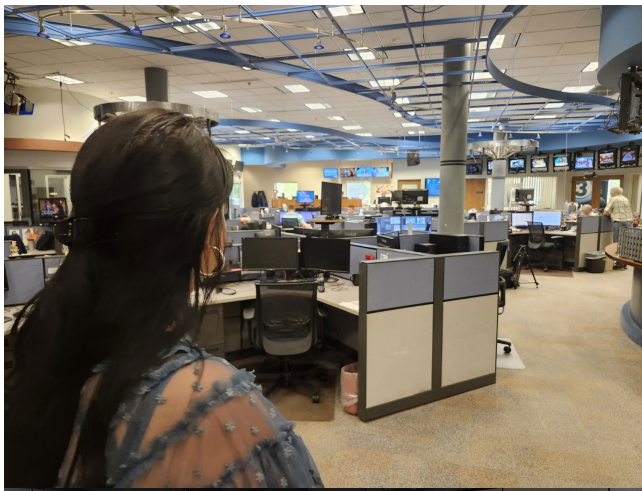


Photo Caption: WSJ's Editorial Cartoonist Phil Hands hosted us and showed what goes into making editorial cartoons you see in the paper every week! He drew for us in person too.



Photo Caption: Engineering Public Information Officer Hannah Mohelnitzky organized a number of media tours with local newsrooms to connect the AASPIRE interns and City PIOs during tours! This was the group at WKOW.

**Press Releases:**

- [Road Closures – Wilson Street Intersections at S Pinckney and Martin Luther King](#) posted August 6, 2024
- [Street Closures - Ride the Drive on Sunday, August 11](#) posted August 6, 2024
- [Heavy Rain Expected Tonight, Tomorrow Morning, Avoid Flash Flooding](#) posted August 5, 2024
- [Road Closures - Stevens Street Reconstruction](#) posted August 2, 2024

**Blogs:**

- [Plant of the Week: Meadow Blazing Star](#) posted August 6, 2024

**Press Events:**

Press Conference: Air Quality Monitor: <https://youtu.be/OuGa-f0tnP4>

Press Conference: Return of Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes in Madison: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2F9yKBB9Ag>

[WKOW: City of Madison reminds people of flood-prone areas ahead of heavy rainfall forecasted overnight](#)

[WISC: City of Madison working to mitigate future flooding](#)

[Cap Times: This project is trying to reduce floods in Madison with native plants](#)

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## Section Updates

Each month, Engineering Division City Engineer Jim Wolfe leads a section head meeting. Each month in The E, we will share main points for employees to know what was discussed on important topics that impact employees division-wide. This is to improve better internal communication between leadership and staff. This is separate from official meeting minutes.

**Division Communications**

*Hannah Mohelnitzky, Engineering Division Public Information Officer*

Our Engineering Communications Plan for 2023 is wrapped up and on GEAR under Communications. We are working on our 2024 Comms Plan. Review is officially underway for a number of chunks of content: Waterways 2024, Blogs from our ENG Intern and more. The Flooding Communications Plan is being reviewed by the deputies. Our ENG PIO Intern Maggie has left for college for the year. She was amazing in helping me run social media and writing Waterways. Thank you Maggie for all your help! Pictured below: Maggie grabbing photos for social media by the lake! Not a bad assignment!



### **Public Works and Private Development**

*Chris Petykowski, Deputy City Engineer, Public Works and Private Development*

Public works engineers are continuing to work on 2024 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include 252 Dunning St, 808 Melvin Ct, Jannah Village Ph 3, 2101 E Springs Dr & Rutledge St.

### **Facilities Management**

*Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management*

- 2024 GreenPower team continuing solar PV installation work at [Water Utility Paterson Operations](#). Construction activities underway for [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#).
- Construction Phase > [CCB remodels \(Assessor/Clerk/Treasurer/OIM/Common Council\)](#), [Olbrich Gardens Royal Thai Pavilion Renovations](#), [Door Creek Park Pavilion](#), [Tenney Park Beach Shelter](#), [Madison Public Market](#), [Metro – Satellite Facility](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Village on Park Parking Structure](#), [Fire Station 14 Training Site Phase 1](#), [Rennebohm Park Shelter Restroom Renovation](#), [Country Grove Park Shelter](#), [West Streets Facility HVAC and Lighting Upgrade](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets – Waste Transfer – Public Drop Off Access and Flatwork Improvements](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#), and [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#).

### **Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities**

*Jay Pare, Infrastructure Training Program Supervisor (MIT-E)*

It's pretty much business as usual at Emil Street. Mother nature dumping rain on us, and short staffing levels are seemingly the new normal. We find a way to get the work done none the less. As we continue to monitor lake levels, crews are clearing storm grates and responding to localized ponding events. Sandbag sites are stocked and ready should residents need them. We are currently running interviews looking for some good candidates. Some day we may even get back to full staff.

Sanitary PMs are on schedule and crews are working on area cleaning as time permits. This was a great accomplishment with our shortage of personnel and trucks needing service and repairs. Great job to our sewer techs for stepping up to this challenge and still providing great service to our residents!

CCTV crews are keeping busy on CMOM and new construction projects.

Construction crews are busy with waterways projects, sanitary repairs, sinkholes and asphalt patch. Greenway crews are still working on tree removals from storm damage and mowing whenever possible between the rain. This year's MITE crew has six trainees out working hard, learning how to replace sidewalk stones, walk ramps, and curb. Congrats to Taylor Lemon on her promotion to Lead worker 1 in June, and Britian Gloudeman (MITE trainee) on being hired full time!

### **Stormwater**

*Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Rain, Rain go away - Please! It's been a very rainy summer and the Isthmus area especially is dealing with several bouts of flash flooding brought on by high lake levels. Staff is keeping busy taking flood reporting and drainage complaints. Our Ops staff has been working hard trying to help us address clogged drains other areas in our system that need some help to keep them open and functional. Thanks to everyone that has their boots on the ground helping out the residents dealing with flooding. Hopefully drier weather is in store in the upcoming weeks. Staff are

gearing up for the first Public Information Meeting for Pennito Creek Watershed Study at the end of July and the 4<sup>th</sup> Public Information Meeting for the Spring Harbor Watershed at the end of August. Sauk Creek Greenway had a successful Public meeting regarding the channel and ecological assessment. There's still much more to do! Old Sauk Trails Business Park (The Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement project) is creeping closer to the finish line with permitting wrapping up as well as easement acquisitions underway. That project is tentatively set to bid in September. Prairie Hills Pond dredging will be readvertised since we only got one bid. We will repackage that into a larger project and look to bid it out sometime this fall. We will be starting to gear up for design of 2 larger storm projects this fall/winter – Cap City Trail from Blount to Breatly will replace the failed 115year old box culvert, while the Nakoma/Manitou Way 4x6' box that drains to Secret Pond in the Arboretum will be replaced with a substantially larger 6x16' box culvert that will replace the failing storm sewer while adding in our recommendations from our watershed study for flood mitigation. Keep up the great work everyone!

### **Sanitary Sewer**

*Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

Summer goes by fast as so does the construction season. This year has proven no exception. Projects yet to bid in 2024 need to be scheduled now because the window for getting work done is nearly closed. Projects bid now will most likely carry over into 2025. We have some key apartment complex planned occupancy dates to hit in May of 2025 that we need new sewers in place for. Lake Street Garage Redevelopment (Lake St. sewer) construction has now started, Gardners Bakery Redevelopment sewer reroute on E. Washington Ave. has been bid. The Commercial Ave. (Hwy 30) sewer crossing is also associated with the Gardners Bakery site redevelopment, and it will be bid in late August/ early September. 838 Williamson Street (Paterson St Sewer) is now in design and will be bid mid-August. Fordem Ave.- First St. Sewer Replacement for 1617 Sherman Ave., will not be built in 2024 due to Railroad Permitting. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station Replacement construction is ongoing with completion set for 2024. The Badger Lift Station Replacement is not yet designed but construction is planned for 2025. High groundwater from the summer rain and high lake levels has resulted in high run times at our low-lying lift stations. Wright St and Truax pump stations (both located near the airport) have had high pump run times this summer. This is the result of groundwater infiltrating the sewer mains and laterals. We line our sewer mains to reduce this, but we still have all of the laterals. Let's hope for some dryer weather!

### **Land Information/Official Map**

*Jeff Quamme, Section Manager*

- After Assessor's CAMA crossover we are still continuing work with Engineering Tech and IT to determine workflows for addressing and street name data.
- Working with Engineering Tech and IT on Storm Water Billing workflow.
- Coordination of multiple Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population is ongoing. Jack Plasterer has come on board as an intern and is helping to accelerate this project
- Private development with extensive land rights reviews, acquisitions and releases with Real Estate projects.
- Populating the approval text of enactments for all Official Map reservations. Also reviewing Ordinance setback restrictions to determine locations and parcels impacted.
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027
- Updating of base mapping to prioritize areas in need of adjustment spatially of areas that are not accurately mapped.

### **Engineering Technology**

*Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager*

- Revamping Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system
- Adding all private development projects to ACC and meeting with Eng on workflows to build processes in ACC
- ACC training ongoing and targeted to when users have project tasks to complete
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- Finished Stormwater work orders for summer work on ponds and greenways
- Working with Facilities on CityWorks process changes for PMs. Switching from WO to inspections
- Working with other Public Works agencies to get CW and GIS updated
- Getting set up for Power BI training and pilot
- Ongoing
- Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
- E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
- Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
- Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog
- Data Governance –Working on data training. Looking at City-wide data warehouse.

### **Administration Staff**

*Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleegel, Isaac Gabriel*

Common Council and Board of Public Works dates for August & early September:

- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 21, by NOON (8/28 BPW)
- Common Council resolutions deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 3, by 8:00 AM (9/10 CC)
- Board of Public Works resolutions deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 4, by NOON (9/11 BPW)

#### Finance

*Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager*

Engineering's four Operating Budgets were submitted to the Mayor on 7/19. The Mayor releases her Executive Operating Budget on 10/8. The next milestone for the 2025 Capital Budget is the introduction of the Mayor's Executive Capital Budget on 9/10.

#### Construction Inspection

*John Fahrney, Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

PW projects, private development projects and permits are ongoing.

Surveyors are working on preliminary surveys for 2025.

Inspectors are implementing ACC.

## COMING AND GOING

#### New Hires

- Douglas Galban
- JJ Gumieny
- Alec Walters
- Terry Faust
- Patrick O'Neil
- John Plasterer

#### Promotions

- Josh Sherrod
- Aaron Canton
- Britian Gloudeman

#### Departures

- Tim Affholder
- Keenih Allen-Wallace
- Rachel Dudley
- Matt Murphy

## GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeeenet/engineering>



## Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

City of Madison Engineering Division  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/>





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**Hannah Mohelnitzky**

(she/her)

Engineering Division  
Communications

608-669-3560

[hmoelnitzky@cityofmadison.com](mailto:hmoelnitzky@cityofmadison.com)