

Dear Eastside Neighbors:

As summer draws to a close, it's time for the City of Madison to begin its annual budget process. The budget is a very concrete expression of our priorities as a city, so I encourage you to join the discussion and let me know what your priorities are. There are several things on my mind that have implications for the budget:

Safety: How do we, as a community, address the root causes of crime, rather than just dealing with the symptoms? How do we empower neighborhoods to improve their safety and quality of life? How do we strengthen communication between neighborhoods and the police department? I'm encouraged by the work I see being done by neighborhood associations around the east side.

Transportation: How can we fund improvements to the bus system? What about the Transport 2020 plan for commuter rail? What are our priorities as a community for public transit? How can we continue to make our city more bikable? I'm working with the Long Range Metro Planning Committee and the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board to address these issues.

Drinking Water: The Water Utility has been a source of much frustration to many of us. How do we best care for our water infrastructure? How do we improve the culture at the Water Utility? Looking forward, how do we best protect and preserve our aquifer? Now that the Council and the Mayor have more oversight over the Utility, I'm hopeful we will see improvement.

I hope you'll share your thoughts on the above, or whatever else is on your mind, with me as the Council discusses the 2008 budget.

Thank you,
Satya

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