

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

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



August 2025 Issue

A message from your City Engineer, Jim Wolfe:

First, I want to give a huge shout out to all of the folks that have been involved with the recent emergency sewer repair that is nearing completion near the intersection of Hargrove and Tulane. This was an incredible team effort to accomplish, including assistance from a local contractor, Capitol Underground. These were very challenging working conditions, and so many folks had a role in helping to accomplish this - from brainstorming and developing solutions, coordinating crews, helping manage the high groundwater, monitoring and ensuring the bypass pumping was functioning well 24 hours a day for several days in a row. It truly demonstrated the dedication and incredible service provided by our Division to ensure that residents in the City can safely work and live in our community. Even though this incredible effort will probably be unnoticed by many because everyone worked hard to avoid service interruptions, I wanted to pass along my appreciation and amazement with this work.

On a little more personal note, I will be off on parental leave for a couple of weeks starting in mid-August, and then taking a little more extended leave starting in December. While I'm out on leave, Kathy Cryan will be leading the Division, but all other Assistant City Engineers will also be helping to take lead on various areas, especially in each of their sections, while I'm away, too.

-Jim

Budget Requests are In, Available on City Website

[2026 Capital Budget Agency Requests](#)

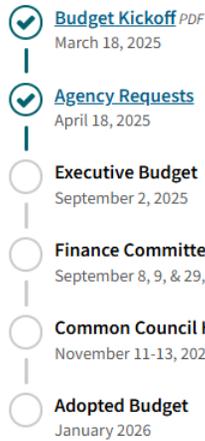
- [Engineering - Bicycle and Pedestrian](#)
- [Engineering - Facilities Management](#)
- [Engineering - Major Streets](#)
- [Engineering - Other Projects](#)

[2026 Operating Budget Agency Requests](#)

- [Engineering](#)

2026 Budget

Capital Budget



Operating Budget



2025 City of Madison Engineering Division All Hands Meeting Planning Update

The planning team is busy putting together our annual in person all hands meeting. Details we have are as follows:

Location, Time, Place

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 21, 2025, 1600 Emil Street

Bus Services

We will have bus service in some capacity thanks to Metro that morning to and from downtown. More information to come on that in the next The E.

All Staff Photo Slideshow, We Want Your Photos!

We're putting together a slideshow again this year that highlights teamwork, projects, co-workers, whatever you'd like to add. Please drop your photos into this folder by 4 p.m., Oct. 14, 2025. Any photos after the deadline are not likely to make it in, so make sure to drop them in this folder before!

2025 City of Madison Engineering Division Photo Slideshow Drop Folder:

<F:\Common\HANNAH MOHELNITZKY\DROP FOLDER\2025 City of Madison Engineering Division Photo Slideshow Drop Folder>

Calling all Favorite Side Dishes!

The division will be providing main dish, one side and dessert, and we're looking for more volunteers to bring some sides to share with the division! This can come in a crockpot or cold. However you'd like to bring it, let Hannah know by emailing hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com by Sept. 30, 2025.

Equity Minute: August 2025

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 taking care of themselves mentally, physically, and emotionally. Here are a few ways people choose to prioritize themselves:

- Walking
- Dancing
- Drinking water
- Yoga
- Getting enough sleep
- Drawing

Calling New Everyday Engineering Podcast Ideas

Calling all ideas for upcoming podcast episodes! Unique projects? Unique new things coming up? Let's talk about it! You can use these episodes to educate the public when asking questions, etc.

We have six openings for the next round of recordings!

Each recording is 30 minutes – but our episode is less than 20. We'll walk you through each question, and we have fun!

Each podcast episode has the host and up to two guests. (Typically different views/perspectives/stakes in the topic, but if you're on a team, let's have you both!)

If you have an idea, email hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com

Blood Drives Coming Up

Aug. 19, 2025 Drive

The American Red Cross will be at the Madison Municipal Building on Tuesday, August 19 for a Blood Drive. This event is open to all City and County employees. While walk-ins are welcome, it's recommended you secure an appointment in advance.

Date: August 19, 2025

Time: 8:00am – 2:00pm

Location: Madison Municipal Building Room 215, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Book appointment: Call 1-800-733-2767, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: CityCountyMadison or [click the signup link](#).

Sept. 11, 2025 Drive

Madison Police Department and Madison Fire Department will host their annual 9/11 Memorial Blood Drive. The blood drive is held to remember and honor the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Event details:

WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sept. 11, 2025 (Appointments every 15 minutes). Please anticipate an approximately 1 hour timeframe for your donation, and slightly longer if you are doing a Power Red double donation.

WHERE: Goodman Community Center at 214 Waubesa St., Madison, WI

How: Register online - [Red Cross Registration](#)

Of note, **7/17/25** was last day to donate a whole blood product and to still be eligible for donation on 9/11/25.

Media Roundup

Press Releases

- [Street Closures – Sherman Avenue \(southbound direction\)](#) posted July 30, 2025
- [Brooks Street and Drake Street – Intersection Paving Closure](#) posted July 29, 2025
- [McKenna Blvd – Utility Work Closure](#) posted July 29, 2025
- [Update - Nakoma Road Sidewalk Project](#) posted July 29, 2025
- [Applications open for Imagination Center at Reindahl Park public art](#) posted July 17, 2025
- [City Engineering's Pleasant View Road Project Earns 'Project of the Year'](#) posted July 14, 2025
- [Nakoma Road Sidewalk Project - AT&T Utility Work](#) posted July 8, 2025

Blogs

- [Plant of the Week: Rattlesnake Master](#) posted July 29, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Dodder \(Cuscuta\)](#) posted July 18, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Burdock – Arctium Minus/Lappa](#) posted July 11, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Purple Prairie Clover \(Dalea purpurea\)](#) posted July 3, 2025

City Press Conferences

- [News Conference: Theresa Terrace Ribbon Cutting July 28, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Launch of 20 is Plenty July 21, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Darbo Sculpture Unveiling July 08, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Disability Pride Flag Raising Ceremony July 1, 2025](#)

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

A busy month and end to the summer for communications. Public Information Meetings are busy with notifications, web updates and meeting set ups. Thank you to everyone following the process, it works, and it's a great way to streamline our work. All section heads should sign up for the Thank You Video shoot either at Emil or downtown. See email for those dates and link to the sign up. I was able to go out to Truax apartments to see what the GreenPower team is up to for a video. We're also working on pushing out some Street Meets videos and gearing up for the All Hands Meeting. Web accessibility work is still in the works. I'm working on the Wilson Street Ribbon Cutting event at the end of Aug. With the Topping off ceremony with Mortensen in September. Please continue to send media requests to me. Also, please email web updates to ENGweb@cityofmadison.com with your edit, and the LINK to the page you need updated. There are quite a few pages, and even if you're re-sending, just send a new request, and include your link every time.

Public Works and Private Development

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

Public works engineers are working on design and approvals for 2025 projects and beginning to work on 2026 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include Meyer Ave, Badger Rusk Path, Tancho Path, Madison Yards Ph5, 2430 E. Washington, 702 University Row. Project Meetings have begun regarding Regent St Reconstruction. Staff are preparing an RFP for John Nolen Dr Phase 3 design.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Substantially [Completed > Village on Park Parking Structure](#).
- [Construction Phase > CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV, Madison Public Market, State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development, Bartillon Shelter, WPCRC Expansion, Hoover Boathouse Door/Window/Siding Replacement + Painting, CCB – DCR Offices, Olin Waste Transfer Waste Drop-off Site, South Madison Demolitions & Site Restorations, East Streets Maintenance Facility Fire Sprinkler Replacement, Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, Village on Park - Site Improvements](#).
- [Bidding/Contract Phase > Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#)
- [Design Phase > Streets Division - Far West Operations Building, Central Library Lighting Retrofit, Metro Transit Phase 3B – Admin and Dispatch Facility Improvements](#).
- [Planning Phase > Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations, Parks Yahara Golf Maintenance Facility, Engineering Clean Fill Site](#)

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Wayne Brown, *Operations General Foreperson*

The “E” stands for Everything—because if it needs doing, chances are, we already did it yesterday. Grease traps? Pumped. Greenways? Mowed. Pipes? Repaired. Sidewalks? Installed so straight even a spirit level would nod in approval. When the city calls for help, Engineering answers—usually covered in dirt, but ready for action.

Now that we’ve sufficiently tooted our horn (toot toot), let’s get to it.

TV Crews—our underground detectives. Armed with cameras and grit, they’re busy inspecting miles of sewer lines and exposing the truth beneath our feet. Recently, they’ve uncovered a few “cross bores”—that’s when a rogue directional drill decides to turn your sewer main into a kebab skewer. Thankfully, our TV crews caught it in time, proving yet again they’re the unsung heroes of underground infrastructure—and maybe low-key the best reality show in town.

Vactor Crews—the vacuum-powered legends. Day in, day out, they’re clearing out the sanitary and storm systems like sewer-wrangling pros. But they’re not just cleaning anymore, these folks are becoming a staple on construction crews. When a job’s too tight, too wet, or too mysterious, who saves the day? Vactor. Whether it’s exposing a buried utility or bailing out a flooded dig site, they swoop in like superheroes with a hose and a tank. Capes optional but highly encouraged.

Mow Crews! If you’ve seen the greenways and thought, “Wow, that looks like a nature magazine centerfold,” you’ve got these crews to thank. Our everyday trimming, edging, and taming the wild—turning brush into beauty with mower blades and sheer willpower. The city stays sharp because they stay sharp.

Construction Crews—no, we don’t build skyscrapers. But we do build something even more important: peace of mind (and pipe repairs). Whether it’s blazing heat or freezing cold, these crews are in the trenches—literally—keeping the city’s wastewater moving in the right direction. Paired up with our TV and Vactor crews, it’s a triple threat you don’t want to mess with. They’re like the Justice League of infrastructure.

And then there’s MI-TE.

The rookies, the prodigies, the sidewalk scholars. These crews are soaking up experience like a dry sponge in a puddle. They’re learning fast, working hard, and proving daily that the future of Engineering is in very capable, steel-toed boots. Plus, the sidewalks have never looked so safe—or so level.

In conclusion: Engineering does it all. And we do it well, with just the right amount of sweat, sarcasm, and sewer grit to keep this city running smooth.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, *Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

It’s been a rainy summer with several really intense storms that have caused some localized flooding. Thank you for the ops crews and others that are able to assist with the calls. We are looking into a pilot project for a flood warning sign at the corner of 3rd and Johnson, which is one of our repeat offenders. We’ve heard a lot from the residents there and although actually fixing the problem will be a ways off and quite expensive, putting up signage is a good option so people can make smart decisions during flood events.

The Yahara / Isthmus watershed study public informational meeting will happen July 24th. There is a lot of interest in this project and how the river and lakes impact the capacity of the storm sewer system. There has been a significant amount of work on analyzing scenarios for the lake level and river flooding, the use of green infrastructure as well as the “typical” grey infrastructure, which is mostly pipes. Thank you to all those involved in the studies, and especially Jojo O’Brien, for getting this one closer to the finish line. It’s been ongoing for quite some time so getting it completed will be a huge feather in our cap. As of this writing we are working on hiring our new Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist. Hopefully we will get that position filled by mid-August. Finally, a big welcome to Angie Wilcox-Hull, our new hydrogeologist! She is filling a significant void from Brynn Bemis and we are very happy have her on the team! If you get a chance stop over and say Hi to Angie.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Mader, *Principal Engineer, Section Manager*

The WDNR continues to take their extra time for their reviews so please try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able. Private development has primarily been site redevelopments but we still to do have a few large plat developments under design. Thank you for keeping these projects on schedule. Our next infill private apartment development where we have sewer infrastructure impacts (new offsite sewer) is 1617 Sherman Ave. We now have permitting from the two railroads for the sewer crossing from Fordem to E. Johnson St., but we still need to go through the City approval process for bidding. We are most likely looking at a September bid for this project. Lift Stations Projects: Truax Lift Station: Project theoretically is complete, but we are having problems with the new lift station shutting down because of power problems to the lift station. We are looking for solutions. This a major City lift station. The Badger Lift Station Replacement is now partially designed with construction is planned for Fall bidding and 2026 construction. Mayflower L.S. is now under design for 2026 construction with the CDA redevelopment on W. Badger Rd/ S. Park St.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, *Section Manager*

- Continuing - Engineering Tech and IT completing the script for the Storm Water Billing. Almost there only a few outliers.
- Upcoming work on possible jurisdictional transfer of parts of roads from DOT to the City. There will be a lot of identification of affected right of way lands and research.
- Continued support with BRT project. N – S will be an ongoing project. Mineral Point Road last utility rights being completed.
- Continued work on multiple engineering projects with research, easements, title and solutions regarding needs to accomplish many City projects.
- Real Estate projects, vacations, research and relocation orders for several engineering, planning, transportation and water projects
- 911 Address Point population moving forward. Looking to focus on delivering more areas to Dane County
- Private development work is extensive. A lot of demands, among complex projects requiring staff to commit much time and effort to keep the projects on track. Affects all facets of the Land Information group. (Addressing, reviews, storm water, official mapping, real estate projects, eminent domain projects, coordination of utility rights and agreements, etc)
- Checking and adding parcel mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to attach in 2027 as time permits.
- Continued consistent updating of base mapping with new documents of record and updating of areas in need of adjustment spatially that are not accurately mapped as they are discovered.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Nearing the end of getting Address Point and storm billing workflows to work with new CAMA system (so close)
 - Start testing Address Point workflows in ArcPro with attribute rules
- Checking current processes and customizations to verify they are operable in testing environment
- Programming into ACC private development workflows such as Authorization to Proceed and tracking expenses against deposits.
- Wrapping up all of the PW front end contract documentation automated where possible, and into ACC. Supporting ACC Assets for gathering field quantities on construction projects
- Researching BIM for facilities into CityWorks
- New Process for Vehicle/Equipment/Technology acquisition in place
- Working on developing GIS Consortium with other GIS agencies and IT to help manage and create governance around workflows and processes in the City to make tasks more efficient.
- Ongoing
 - Setting up CAD standards, templates and efficiency improvements
 - Data Governance – Working on data training. Looking at City-wide data warehouse.
 - E911 Addressing Points with Dane County
 - Misc CityWorks updates and maintenance
 - Sanitary & Storm record updates – working on sanitary and storm backlog

Administration Staff

Johanna Johnson, Heidi Fleegel

The next deadline for Common Council resolutions is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26 (CC meeting is 9/2).

The Board of Public Works resolution deadline is Noon on Wednesday, August 27 (BPW meeting 9/3).

Interviews for the Program Assistant 1 position on our team are tentatively scheduled for early August. We hope to be able to announce a new team member by the time the September E drops.

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

Engineering's four Operating Budgets for 2026 were submitted on 7/18. The Mayoral Briefing on 8/13 is up next. The 2026 Capital Budget is awaiting the introduction of the Mayor's Executive Budget on 9/2. The Finance section has now made it through year end close, external audit, Capital Budget and Operating Budget so life should calm down for now and allow for catching up on things. Please feel free to reach out regarding anything that is still unresolved from this very busy time of year.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

Permits, private development, and public works projects are progressing in this busy construction month, keeping Inspection staff working hard. Surveyors are working on construction staking and working on completing surveys for 2026 projects. Alane Boutelle has officially retired as of July 25, and while Isaac is doing a fantastic job in his new role, she will be missed.

Coming and Going

- New Hires
 - Nicolas Moore Barbosa (Engineering Laborer) (Ops)(he/him)
 - Brian Mann (Engineering Laborer) (Ops)(he/him)
 - Angela Wilcox-Hull (Hydrogeologist 3) (Sewer & Stormwater)(she/her)
- Promotions
 - Nelson Dresser (Green Power LTE) (Facilities) (he/him)
 - Lisa Stevens (GIS Specialist 2)(Technology)(she/hers)
- Departures
 - Joseph Eichstadt (Architect 2) (he/him)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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