

From: [Mohlitzky, Hannah](#)
Subject: The E: February 2026
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 9:27:16 AM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image022.png](#)

THE E.

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



February 2026 Issue

Wilson Street Named in People For Bikes 2025 Best US Bike Lanes

2025 was a banner year for better biking as cities across the U.S. moved beyond paint and flex posts and invested in permanent, people-centered street design. The best bike projects built last year are fully protected, thoughtfully engineered, and tailored to the needs of their communities, making streets safer and easier to navigate for people of all ages and abilities. These new bike lanes combine physical separation with placemaking, integrating features like public art, landscaping, and transit connections to create vibrant community spaces that benefit everyone, not just those who ride. Together, these projects show how raising the bar for bike infrastructure can strengthen neighborhoods, improve environmental outcomes, and create streets that work better for all members of a community.

Wilson Street Corridor | Madison, Wisconsin



Madison's Wilson Street cycle track. Photo courtesy of the City of Madison

Madison's Wilson Street redesign added a two-way, curb-level cycle track linking the Capital City Trail and Southwest Path. Structural soil was also added as part of the project to help new street trees thrive.

"Wilson Street was largely without any bike facilities, requiring bikes to occupy a vehicle travel lane on a street with vehicle speeds and volumes that exceeded what is considered comfortable for an all-ages shared street," said Aaron Canton, an engineer with the City of Madison. "The two-way Wilson Street cycle track creates a safe link between the Capital City Trail and the Southwest Path, providing an alternative to crossing Highway 151 and giving people a far more comfortable way to reach downtown."

Read the full feature: <https://www.peopleforbikes.org/news/best-new-bike-lanes-2025>

PHOTOS: Great Job Engineering Crews on Recent SSO!



A sanitary sewer is back in working order after City crews quickly cleaned up an overflow on the City's south side. Rags clogged the sewer and caused an overflow.

The City of Madison Engineering Division responded to a reported Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) at 5:53 p.m., Jan. 21, 2026, on the 200 block of Nygard Street. The overflow was spotted coming out of a City sanitary sewer access structure (manhole) SAS 5063-016. [Read full press release.](#)

Equity Blurb

February is recognized as Black History Month in the US and Canada. It is a time to honor and remember the contributions Black Americans have contributed to the United States of America since the creation of the country. Black History Month was created by Carter G Woodson in 1926 and was originally a week long celebration, then was changed to a month-long celebration in 1976. Here are a few Black History Month events happening in Madison:

- Unjust Deeds Traveling Exhibit (Jan 30 - Feb 19 – Central Library)
- 5th Annual Dzigbodi Akyea Art Show (Feb 2 – Feb 27 – Madison College Art Gallery)
- Madison Children's Museum Black Heritage Celebration (Feb 19 – Madison Children's Museum)
- Cooking With Chef Angela (Feb 21 – Meadowridge Library)

Know Your Rights

The City website now has a page of links to community organizations. The content is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice from the City of Madison but does provide information related to:

- Legal Assistance
- Know Your Rights: Immigration, voting and drivers licenses
- Emergency Hotline
- Madison Police Department Policy
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Guidance from the Madison Metropolitan School District & UW-Madison
- Sign for Private Property

Check out <https://www.cityofmadison.com/mayor/priorities/know-your-rights> to learn more.

Media Roundup

DEVELOPMENT

10 housing developments that will change Madison in 2026

Nicole Pollack | Wisconsin State Journal | Jan 14, 2026

The biggest residential developments now under construction are expected to add well over 2,000 apartments in 2026 and 2027.



TRAFFIC

Construction on Johnson Street too much of a bottleneck, city says

Nicole Pollack | Wisconsin State Journal | Jan 5, 2026

Madison is rethinking some Downtown lane closures as the reconstruction of John Nolen Drive leads to long delays on Johnson Street.



Press releases

- [Share your thoughts on Public Art Designs for the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#) posted January 30, 2026
- [Don't Miss 2026 Wisconsin Salt Week Livestreams, Videos and More](#) posted January 23, 2026
- [Crews Cleanup Overflow on South Side, Do Not Flush Rags, Wipes](#) posted January 22, 2026
- [City of Madison Strengthens Commitment to Sustainable Building Standards](#) posted January 15, 2026
- [Bassett Street Closure for Crane Removal](#) posted January 14, 2026
- [Lake Street Closure for Crane Removal](#) posted January 8, 2026
- [Love Our Lakes: City Strategies to Maintain and Improve Lake Health](#) posted December 12, 2025
- [Madison Completes the Second Year of the Building Energy Savings Program](#) posted December 1, 2025

Blogs

- [Less Salty 2026: Contractor Selection](#) posted January 30, 2026
- [Less Salty 2026: 1 Teaspoon](#) posted January 29, 2026
- [Less Salty 2026: Deicing with Sand](#) posted January 28, 2026
- [Less Salty 2026: Deicing with Salt](#) posted January 27, 2026
- [Less Salty 2026: Winter Home Snow Removal Toolkit](#) posted January 26, 2026

News Conferences

- None

Upcoming Public Information Meetings

- Feb. 9, 2026: E. Rusk Ave. Shared-Use Path
- Feb. 23, 2026: Sugar Maple Lane Reconstruction

Project: Emil Street Locker Room Construction Underway

Construction activity updates continue to be provided via email on a bi-weekly basis. You can review construction progress photos by clicking on the Flickr link in the [Locker Room project webpage](#).





Slab floor was poured 1/20/26.

Plumbing rough-in was completed 1/27/26.

Electrical rough-in and masonry block wall installation continues.

Overhead door opening between the garage and the locker room will be infilled starting today. The project team continues to work through submittal and shop drawing reviews. Please bring any concerns to your supervisor.

Wisconsin Salt Week Success, Miss the fun? Check out our Blogs, Less Salty Video Series, Recorded Livestreams

Less Salty with Phil Gaebler Episodes now Live!

[Less Salty 2026: Bonus: Too Much Salt](#) posted February 5, 2026

[Less Salty 2026: Contractor Selection](#) posted January 30, 2026

[Less Salty 2026: 1 Teaspoon](#) posted January 29, 2026

[Less Salty 2026: Deicing with Sand](#) posted January 28, 2026

[Less Salty 2026: Deicing with Salt](#) posted January 27, 2026

[Less Salty 2026: Winter Home Snow Removal Toolkit](#) posted January 26, 2026

The focus of Less Salty with Phil Gaebler is to help property owners learn how to minimize salt use, know when to use salt and how, and select snow removal companies educated in responsible salt use.

Phil Gaebler is a stormwater engineer with decades of experience in the environmental engineering world. He works for the City of Madison Engineering Division and kickstarted the City's implementation of Wisconsin SaltWise. He provides in-house training for all City snow removal crews on proper salt use, equipment calibration, and the reasons behind the City's efforts to reduce salt usage. **Winter Salt Week Recordings**

If you missed the livestreams or recordings from Winter Salt Week, they're all available on YouTube. The topics included in the recordings are the following:

- [Winter Salt Week 2026: Salt Wise Stories](#)
- [Winter Salt Week 2026: Smart Salting Contracts](#)
- [Winter Salt Week: Engineering Solutions](#)
- [Winter Salt Week 2026: Advocating for Change](#)
- [Winter Salt Week 2026: Salt Monitoring 101](#)

Watch them all on the Winter Salt Week YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@wisaltwise1739/streams>

Winter Salt Week is a week dedicated to raising awareness around salt pollution and reduction solutions.

<p>FRESHWATER SALINIZATION Causes, Consequences, and Trends</p> <p>MONDAY, JANUARY 26 12:30-1:00PM CT</p> <p>Get the big picture on freshwater salinization—then dive into a real-world case from the Occoquin Reservoir that highlights the complexity of the issue and practical management solutions.</p> <p>DR. WILSON RYPP DR. CLAY GLANT</p>	<p>SALT WISE STORIES</p> <p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 12:30-1:00PM CT</p> <p>Hear directly from winter maintenance practitioners who have seen the business case for smarter salting, transformed their operations, and now educate and inspire others.</p> <p>PHIL GAEBLER JACK BOGARD</p>	<p>SMART SALTING CONTRACTS</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 12:30-1:00PM CT</p> <p>Knowing how to ask for winter maintenance best practices on your property can be difficult. Learn the basics from industry professionals and know what resources are available to support you.</p> <p>WALTER HAZEN JIM HICKEL</p>
<p>ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS</p> <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 12:30-1:00PM CT</p> <p>Innovative engineering—from salt-spraying infrastructure design to smart sensors and AI-driven storm management—can cut winter salt use without compromising safety.</p> <p>CONNIE GORTON MEL ROYCE</p>	<p>ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 11:00AM-12:00PM CT CONVERSATION TABLE</p> <p>Want to make a difference? Let's look at practical ways to mobilize your community, collaborate with local leaders, and champion policies that support smarter winter maintenance.</p> <p>ABBY HILDEN MEL ROYCE</p>	<p>SALT MONITORING 101</p> <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 12:00-1:00PM CT CONVERSATION TABLE</p> <p>Louise and Paige will share their monitoring experiences on the Fort Snare in Wisconsin, Connecticut and the Rouge River in Michigan before leading participant questions and discussion topics.</p> <p>LAUREN EATON PAIGE KOCHLA</p>

Background on WI Salt Week

Governmental and non-governmental organizations across the United States have been tackling this issue in their own communities, watersheds, and states for years. During the last week of January each year, we come together to highlight challenges, showcase successes, and elevate the need for broader policy and societal action. Winter salt use damages infrastructure and threatens the health of lakes, streams, and drinking water. An informed public can support the adoption of best practices in snow and ice control and advocate for the protection of freshwater resources.

Learn more about Wisconsin Salt Week: <https://protectwiwaterways.org/1327-2/>

Learn more about Wisconsin Salt Wise: <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>

Nominate Your Superstar Co-Worker Today!

(emailed to all City employees)

#TeamCity Awards is a unique citywide recognition program launched in February 2020. Since then, hundreds of City employees and teams have been recognized in ceremonies for outstanding work by Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. Any City employee can nominate an employee or a team. Nominations are accepted at any time on a rolling basis.

The next ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026. Please submit nominations using

the forms: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/employee/city-groups/initiatives/performance-excellence/teamcity-employee-recognition-program>

Forms can be sent by email to jludag@cityofmadison.com or by Inter-D to Fleet HQ, 4151 Nakoosa Trail.

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

Winter Salt Week promotion is wrapping up and the week was filled with a number of educational activities digitally for our community, state and nation to learn about Winter Salt Use! I am working on our Engineering Division communications plans, web accessibility project and more. I'm also working on updating our intranet site on a number of pages involving communications. More to come on that as well. We are in a busy public information meeting season. Please review public information meeting set up and web updates processes on GEAR under "Communications." If you have questions, please reach out: hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com.

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 2026 projects. Private development Engineers and Managers continue to service contracts and issue plan sets. Plans issued this month include 414 W Washington and Hawthorne/Lake/Dayton. Public Meetings for 2026 projects have begun and one was held on Regent St. Charter Alley, Cap City Path Extension, Cannonball Path & Midvale Patching were all approved at the BPW. John Nolen Dr construction has begun and construction on South Bound Bridges will continue over the winter.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV](#), [State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development](#), [Bartillon Shelter](#), [WPCRC Expansion](#), [Olin Waste Transfer Waste Drop-off Site](#), [South Madison Demolitions & Site Restorations](#), [East Streets Maintenance Facility Fire Sprinkler Replacement](#), [Imagination Center at Reindahl Park](#), [Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#), [Dairy Dr Campground Demolition and Site Restoration](#), [Engineering Services Building Locker Room Renovation](#)
- Design Phase > [Streets Division - Far West Operations Building](#), [Central Library Lighting Retrofit](#), [Parks Yahara Golf Maintenance Facility](#), [Utility Materials Handling Site](#)
- Planning Phase > [Madison Police Department – South District and Police Evidence Operations](#)

Operations – Sewer and Stormwater Utilities

Public Works General Foreperson – MI-TE Jay Pare

Winter has hit us hard this January. Construction crews have kept busy plowing and scraping snow, sanding icy spots, and clearing inlets in preparation for the glorious day when we see temps above freezing again.

Acewood pond dredging is getting staged and should begin the first week of February. Operator 2s are getting good use with our forest mulcher, clearing greenways and access paths.

Factor crew responsibilities have been hit the hardest as the below zero temps preclude their equipment from being outdoors for very long. They are managing emergency calls, but not able to get any PMs completed. With the new found open schedule, they are working on continuing education, and getting lots of maintenance tasks completed around the shop.

CCTV is gearing up for 2026 new construction season and working on structure inspections.

Congratulations to Taylor Grannis on her promotion to Leadworker 2!

That's all I got, think warm thoughts!

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

BRRR! Winter is here but that doesn't mean the work has stopped. Stricker's forebay has continued to make progress with the dredge work – still working even with the below zero temps. Operations staff has also been busy making repairs around town for some of our waterways projects. Many projects have been put on hold till the spring but design and permitting is still going strong in the office. Manitou Box Culvert Ph 2 is getting ready to bid soon along with several street projects. Staff is also working on the West Town Pond project, Castle Creek Improvements, and gearing up again for reengaging the neighborhood for on Sauk Creek corridor. Winter is also a great time to plan for spring operational work, which staff are also working hard on. Prescribed burns and planning for our ecological contracts are moving forward, and Cityworks work orders and mowing requests are getting done are being updated. Congratulations are in order for the storm team working on our grant applications – we recently just scored a grant for Castle Creek and are working on an application for the West Town Pond. Although we JUST approved the 2026 budget it's not too soon to start working on the budget for 2027. We have a lot of big projects in the works in the next few years!

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Moder, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

The 2026 street projects are now assigned or are now under design. Our next infill private apartment development where we have sewer infrastructure impacts (new offsite sewer) is 1617 Sherman Ave. This continues a priority project given that the apartment on Sherman Ave. will be occupied this summer. Lift Stations Projects: Truax L.S.: Modifications were made to lift station to address power problems to the lift station. We do not know if the modifications completed to date worked but will know in spring when lift station experiences higher flows with the spring thaw/ heavy rain events. The Badger Lift Station Replacement plans are now nearing completion, but we need to obtain easements prior to bidding. Mayflower L.S. design is now underway with the Badger Road CDA redevelopment. Citywide sanitary sewer model: We are in the process of hiring Carollo for the City-wide sanitary sewer model. The City-wide sewer model will be a great tool for our department to provide an up-to-date status on how our collection system is operating and where we need to make improvements to keep our high level of service for our customers. Impact Fees-South High Point Road Impact Fee needs assessment is being put together. Pumpkin Hollow Impact Fee will need to be revised because the WNDR does not want to accept sewers located in the wetlands where we currently have our easements.

Land Information/Official Map

Jeff Quamme, Section Manager

- Storm Water Billing Script continue working with IT to fix the data that is populating in the APO data set.
- Support of BRT project with land acquisitions.
- Always providing support for 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 is ongoing along with all other addressing demands with development at a high pace. 911 is a priority.
- Private development related reviews and project are many. (Addressing, reviews, storm water, official mapping, real estate projects, eminent domain projects, coordination of utility rights and agreements, etc)
- Starting mapping for future areas of Blooming Grove to move in earnest beginning next month.
- Updating of areas in need of adjustment spatially that are not accurately mapped as they are discovered with new land divisions.
- Support of Attorney's office for wrapping up Town of Madison properties owned by the City of Madison
- Research for many DOT, Dane County and City Related projects.

Engineering Technology

Candice Kasprzak, Engineering Technology Manager

- Still working on 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
- Programming into ACC private development workflows such as Authorization to Proceed and tracking expenses against deposits. Did initial demo to the private development group to gain feedback
- Wrapping up CityWorks upgrade with IT
- Working on getting all of the CityWorks reporting into SQL and SSRS.
- 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
- 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, Jenna Webb, Heidi Zigler

Upcoming deadline for Common Council resolutions is 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Feb 17 (CC meeting 2/24)
Board of Public Works resolutions are due by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18 (BPW meeting 2/25)

For the first meetings in March:

Common Council resolutions are due by 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd (CC meeting 3/10)

Board of Public Works resolutions are due by 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4th (BPW meeting 3/11)

For a copy of the 2026 Board of Public Works Calendar, visit

Gear: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/employeeenet/engineering/board-of-public-works-common-council-calendar>

Thank you.

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

A few reminders regarding 2025 related activity:

- Please continue to close out Work Orders in Cityworks as quickly as possible after the work is complete. This is especially important for work orders that have to be billed out to another agency or external party.
- Any billings to utilities like MGE or anything done without a formal agreement needs to be billed out now. Please forward the necessary info as soon as you have it pulled together.
- Please review all consultant agreements and anything else under a POS contract to make sure any contract extensions are in place prior to the contract expiring (if the project is delayed or if the work will not be complete prior to the contract expiration date)
- Please review all open Contracts and PO's that you are managing to make sure that we are either billed for all work through 12/31 or to identify items to be closed out.
- **Please do not pay for goods or services from 2025 with a p-card. Any invoices for 2025 that need to be paid now in 2026 will have to be paid by check instead.**
- Anything related to 2025 services/supplies that cannot be paid for some reason needs to be communicated to Finance staff so that the amounts can be accrued back to 2025. This includes Change Orders that are pending approval. Remember, it is the year when the service is performed or the supplies are received that matters, not when things get invoiced.
- Please submit any grant reports and reimbursements requests for 2025 ASAP and notify Chase. If submittals cannot be made yet, please communicate the amount of grant eligible expense in 2025 to Chase.

Please also remember that anything not paid with a p-card at the time of purchase, including electric/natural gas extensions, need to have a PO issued up front. Services should not be authorized with vendors nor materials ordered without having a PO approved first. Only true emergencies are the exception to this requirement.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer Section

Construction inspection staff are working through 2025 project finalization. This includes closing contracts and getting assessment quantities to designers. This is the first year where most project closeouts are occurring exclusively through ACC. There are a couple projects still in progress, notable Main & Hancock. Pre-construction meetings for spring construction are getting scheduled,

with a number of them occurring in the next month. Ordered Sidewalk contracts going out to bid end of February. Prepping for another City and Contractor meeting at the end March.

Coming and Going

- New Hires
 - Terria'anna Roberson (Electrician Trainee) (Facilities)
- Promotions
 - Troy Vant (Construction Inspector 1 to Construction Inspector 2)
 - Christopher Horst (Construction Inspector 1 to Construction Inspector 2)
 - Neudy Villalobos (Green Power Hourly to Green Power LTE)
 - Taylor Grannis (Engineering Operations Leadworker 1 to Engineering Operations Leadworker 2)
 - Amy Kemp (Program Assistant 1 to Project Coordinator)
 - Eric Cefalu (Engineer 2 to Engineer 3)
- Departures
 - Arshitha Nagisetty (Engineer Hourly)
 - David Ngo (Construction Inspector Hourly)
 - Sai Venkata (Construction Inspector Hourly)
 - Erick Cisneros (MI-TE Trainee)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



CITY OF
MADISON

www.cityofmadison.com/engineering

Facebook: @CityofMadisonEngineering

X: @MadisonEngr

Instagram: @MadisonEngr

Apple iTunes Podcast: Everyday Engineering

YouTube: @CityofMadisonEngineering



Hannah Mohelnitzky
(She/her)

Engineering Division
Communications

608-669-3560

hmohelnitzky@cityofmadison.com