

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

A newsletter for the Engineering Division



September 2025 Issue

Mayor Releases Executive Operating Budget

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway released her 2025 Executive Capital Budget, which details her plan to fund buildings, infrastructure, and other capital investments Watch the press conference: [YouTube](#)

Help Design Emil Lockers, Win A Parking Space

In preparation for our upcoming Locker Room renovation, we are rolling out a contest to request designs to serve as room identification.

Deadline: 3 p.m., Oct. 14, 2025

We will vote on entries at the All Hands meeting and award up to six prizes. The winners will be announced via email after the votes are counted.

Only Emil Street staff are invited to submit designs. All of Engineering can vote.

[Fill out the entry form and get all information on GEAR.](#)

SUBMIT YOUR DESIGNS & WIN A RESERVED PARKING SPACE

Enter numerous times for more chances to win!

GOAL: Create 1 unique graphic design

to be used as an identification tool at each restroom/showering room door in the Locker Room. 6 unique designs will be selected.*

PRIZE: Reserved parking space

during Locker Room construction work.

Six (6) reserved parking spots during construction will be awarded - one per selected design. If a winning design is submitted by a team, the team shall determine who gets the reserved parking space or develop a schedule for sharing among team members. If a team member does not need a parking space, an alternate prize will be awarded.

CONTEST RULES:

- Pick up entry form from Ryan Schmidt's desk
- Graphic design must relate to the work of the Engineering Division*
- Design must be in one color (see entry form)
- Design must be easily reproducible
- Design must fit in a space 1'-8" W x 8'-2" H
- Design cannot be copyrighted or reference a specific brand logo other than the City of Madison Engineering logo
- Each single entry must include a sketch of the design on the provided sheet and the name(s) of Engineering Division Staff submitting the entry.
- By submitting an entry, you agree to allow the Engineering Division to use your design.
- Emailed or hard copy entries due to Ryan Schmidt by 3:00 P.M. on October 14, 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.

AWARD: Vote for your favorite designs at the All Hands Meeting October 21, 2025.

The 6 designs with the highest number of votes will be awarded the prizes.** The selected designs will be announced via email.

*EM Project Team (Hundson, Cooper, Scarton, Schrock) will accept designs that do not relate to the work of the Engineering Division. EM Project Team may still accept designs as needed to fit the printing parameters of the Overall Contractor.

**EM Project Team will not participate in voting, but will submit votes to break any ties.

Waterways is on its way to print!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to pushing out our Waterways annual storm newsletter. Did you know it goes out to every property owner in the City of Madison? That's a LOT of eyes on OUR work. If you haven't checked out Waterways before, you can read digital copies online from past years, and watch for the new one coming in September!

Sign up for the digital version here: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/stormwater/education/waterways-stormwater-newsletter>

Special thank yous go out to our contributors taking on extra work to showcase their work:

- Johanna Johnson (helping print and mail out to thousands! A lot of responsibility she delivers consistently every year!)
- Phil Gaebler (Cover story on JND stormwater and back page of leave the leaves)
- Jojo O'Brien (Pheasant Branch Enhancement)
- Ryan Stenjem (Watershed Numbers)
- Greg Fries and Janet Schmidt (for review)
- Kathy Cryan (for review)

Thank you team!

Hannah Mohelnitzky

City of Madison Engineering Division Public Information Officer

Clean up the Web, Send in Complete Page Updates

1. Check out the project page list of projects, and let us know if projects are **complete**.
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects>
2. Check out the project pages you oversee, and **send in an update**. Double check that your project pages are up to date with dates, info, etc. <https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects>
3. If you need an update on **any web page** in Engineering (GEAR, Project pages, Flooding or normal web), email ENGweb@cityofmadison.com, include the page link that you need the edit on, and what edit you need.

PHOTOS: Green Power at East Madison Community Center



City of Madison Engineering Division All Hands Meeting Updates

Help us make our 2025 All Hands Meeting a Success! Drop in your project pictures, and sign up to bring a side for the meal:

DROP PROJECT, STAFF WORKING, HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR WORK THIS YEAR:



[2025 City of Madison Engineering Division Photo Slideshow Drop Folder](#)



[2025 Volunteer All Hands Sides Sign Up.docx](#)

As a reminder:

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.

Website Reminder for Your Project Updates

Thank you for all the edits to our websites. Just a friendly reminder of how to send an edit:

Email ENGWEB@cityofmadison.com

-Include your edit

-Include the link of the page you want it on

-Include any other specifics you need to be clear on what you need edited

Transportation Transformation on Wilson Street Corridor

The City of Madison Engineering Division celebrated the completion of a decade of projects in the Wilson Street Corridor on Aug. 20, 2025. The ribbon cutting was held in the plaza space by Monona Terrace.



Watch the press conference:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/2025-08-13/transportation-transformation-on-wilson-street-corridor-celebrate-completion-with>

Construction Progress Over the Years

The city completed the first phase of reconstructing Wilson Street in 2018 (Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Henry Street/Hamilton Street) and another phase in 2019 (Franklin Street to Blair Street). Then, with even larger projects scheduled, the city began a corridor planning process, which was completed in 2021 after some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, additional work was completed within the Wilson Street/Blair Street/Williamson Street/John Nolen Drive intersection. The City of Madison Engineering Division then completed a major reconstruction and transformational project on Wilson Street from Henry Street/Hamilton Street to S. Bassett Street, which also included some modifications to the lanes on the portion completed in 2018, and also included updates to blocks of Bassett Street and Broom Street to better connect our bike network.

In 2024 and 2025, the city has completed work on the last portion of Wilson Street (Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Franklin Street), completing the transportation transformation of the Wilson corridor. Throughout this time, there have also been several large redevelopment projects along the corridor that have been coordinated with all of the street reconstruction projects.

"Wilson Street is such a critical transportation corridor to connect downtown with John Nolen Drive and the primary bike trails through the city, including the Capital City Trail and the Southwest Path," City Engineer Jim Wolfe said. "Prior to these projects, access to downtown by bicycle could be challenging, with primarily just shared lanes on streets and on streets with steep hills. Wilson Street now provides a good option for people of all ages and abilities, without sacrificing any of the other important uses of the street. It will now more broadly serve all of the residents, visitors, and businesses that use Wilson Street now and into the future."

Budget Over the Years

- 2018 Wilson/Henry/Hamilton reconstruction: \$2.2M
- 2019 Wilson/Williamson reconstruction: \$2.7M
- 2020 MLK Blvd Sidewalks connected to region: \$1.3M
- 2022 Blair/JND/Wilson/Williamson Intersection: \$3.4M (Federal funding used, WisDOT construction contract)
- 2023 Wilson/Broom/Bassett/Henry: \$4.1M
- 2024/2025 Wilson/Doty: \$4.5M

Watch Drone Video of Wilson Street:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

[Video 3](#)

[Video 4](#)

Media Roundup

Press Releases

- [Street Closures - E Main Street and S Hancock Street](#)
- [Public Invited to Meeting about New Public Art for Bartillon Men's Shelter](#)
- [Weather Update: E Doty Street One-Day Paving NOW Tuesday, August 19](#)
- [Meet the Artists Behind the City of Madison's Next Public Art Project, Aug. 21](#)
- [Street Closures - E Main Street and S Hancock Street](#)
- [Public Invited to Meeting about New Public Art for Bartillon Men's Shelter](#)
- [Weather Update: E Doty Street One-Day Paving NOW Tuesday, August 19](#)

Press Conferences

- [News Conference: Ribbon Cutting to Celebrate Installation of new AFD SaveStations August 26, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Wilson Street Ribbon Cutting August 20, 2025](#)
- [News Conference: Triangle Redevelopment Groundbreaking Ceremony August 13, 2025](#)

Blog

- [Plant of the Week: Black Eyed Susan](#) posted August 28, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Swamp Rose Mallow](#) posted August 21, 2025
- [Plant of the Week: Wild Bergamont](#) posted August 5, 2025

Equity Minute: September 2025

September is the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. A time to celebrate Hispanic and Latinx culture and history.

Here are a few events happening in Madison this month:

1. Sirena Flores portrait Exhibition (September-December) (Meadowridge Library)
2. Friday Family Films: Encanto (September 20, 5:30-7:45pm) (Goodman South Madison Library)
3. March Up Bascom Latine Heritage Month (September 12 3:00 PM) (Bascom Hill)
4. Viva Mexico (September 15) (Breese Stevens Field)

Royal Thai Pavilion Earns 2025 AIA Wisconsin Design Award



Architecture Firm: InSite Consulting Architects

Architects: Stephen Mar-Pohl, AIA (Principal-in-Charge) + Stacey Z. Keller, AIA, NOMA (Project Architect)

Design Team Members: Gretchen Pfaehler, FAIA (Specifications writing); Donovan Brendler (Drafting)

Developer: Amy Loewenstein Scanlon, AIA (Department of Public Works- Engineering Division)

General Contractor: Kalam Corporation

Photography: Focal Flame c/o Olbrich Botanical Gardens; Demaster Drones c/o InSite Consulting Architects; InSite Consulting Architects

"The integration of the community in restoring the beautiful tiles and inviting their participation brought a genuine sense of humanity and vitality to the project. It is an exceptional restoration, executed with a remarkable degree of skill."

- Alyssa Manyenny Murphy, AIA, 2025 Juror

Project Summary: The Royal Thai Pavilion at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison underwent a comprehensive restoration to address severe deterioration from decades of exposure to Wisconsin's climate. The project included complete replacement of the clay tile roof, repairs to the wooden structural framework, restoration of decorative finishes, and conservation of mosaic tiles, paint, and gold leafing. The design team worked closely with artisan contractors from Thailand, Spain, and Germany, combining traditional techniques with modern analysis tools such as LiDAR and photogrammetry. Custom clay tiles were produced to match the originals while meeting northern climate performance requirements, including specially shaped tiles for secure eaves and valleys. Lead and copper flashing systems were upgraded for durability, and concealed sub-decking was installed to prevent wind-driven snow infiltration. Wood repairs, decorative painting, and mosaic tile replacement were executed using a combination of modern methods and traditional craftsmanship to ensure long-term resilience.

The project emphasized cultural stewardship alongside technical precision. Signed roof tiles from the original construction, which contained messages of hope and peace, were archived and complemented by new tiles with community messages written by over 1,400 participants. Minor design modifications were implemented to address local climate conditions without compromising the pavilion's historic and symbolic integrity. The restored pavilion preserves its architectural and cultural significance while improving durability and climate responsiveness, demonstrating a successful integration of international collaboration, conservation ethics, and community engagement in a historic preservation project.

[Read more about other award winners](#)

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 month of busy fall construction. We've had a number of public information meetings in the last couple weeks, and have more to come. Thank you for following the process! Waterways is out to print and mail. We just had our Topping Off Event for State Street Garage Mixed-Use Garage and will share more about that in the next The E for October. All Hands video

editing and scheduling is underway, and we're moving toward October with momentum on all chunks of the planning process. Please see earlier articles to sign up for volunteer side dishes and more.

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 Buffalo/Barron/Green Lake & the Conway at Huxley Yards. Public Meetings for 2026 projects have begun and were held on Cap City Path Ph 5 & 6, Pontiac, MacArthur. The Public meeting for Regent is scheduled for 9/11. Bids were received on John Nolen Dr Ph 1 and that project is scheduled to start October 1.

Facilities Management

Bryan Cooper, Deputy City Engineer, Facilities Services and Management

- Substantially Completed > [Village on Park Parking Structure, Hoover Boathouse Door/Window/Siding Replacement + Painting](#)
- Construction Phase > [CDA Truax Apartments Solar PV, Madison Public Market, State Street Campus Garage Mixed Use Development, Bartillon Shelter, WPCRC Expansion, 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, Fire Station 8 Lighting Retrofit](#)
- 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

No blurb submitted.

Stormwater

Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Rain, rain, go away! Looking forward to some drier weather these next few weeks. There have been a lot of flood calls this summer so hoping those will slow down more as we approach the end of summer. We had our 3rd and final Public Informational Meeting for the Yahara / Isthmus watershed study. The timing was impeccable as some of the information was extremely useful for residents and property owners to understand the flooding they have been receiving this past summer. Other watershed studies are moving forward and we are hopeful to get several past the finish line yet this year. Pheasant Branch Greenway Enhancement is still under construction. They will be starting more culvert work at Fourier soon and hopefully start winding the project down for completion. Lots of other projects are moving along including 2 flood mitigation projects at Manitou Way and on the Capital City bikepath. Stricker's Forebay dredging is going to happen this fall/winter. Herptile / turtle enclosure fencing is up already and in September when the water levels recede a bit they will work on relocation of the herptiles (mostly turtles and frogs). Finally, a big welcome to Theran Stautz, our new Stormwater Ecological Restoration Specialist! Theran brings a ton of knowledge with him so we are excited to get him on the team and we certainly will have a lot of work for him to do. If you get a chance stop over and say Hi to Theran.

Sanitary Sewer

Mark Mader, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Wow, August was a hectic month. The Tulane Ave. sink hole ended up being a difficult sanitary sewer point repair. Attempting sewer installations with high groundwater is extremely time consuming. Capitol Underground got it done and the collapsed pipe is now repaired and the sewer main is lined. Thanks to everyone who helped out on that. We have a lot more clay sewer mains in this area of the City and plan to install liners in this area to hopefully prevent this from happening again. It's very expensive to do emergency repair work. Designers are reminded to check borings and the time of year when borings were completed to verify groundwater level and to plan to bid Type 2 dewatering if groundwater anticipated. The WDNR reviews are moving at a faster rate of late, but they have so many new plan reviewers. Please try to apply for sewer extensions early if you are able and quickly respond to any concerns. 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 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/October bid for this project. Lift Stations Projects: Truax L.S.: This project is theoretically complete; however, we continue to have ongoing problems with the lift station shutting down because of power problems to the lift station. We continue to review solutions. 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 still has issues. Working to have script run correctly.
- 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 Transportation plats should be forthcoming for review.
- Assisting with acquisitions for safe streets for Traffic.
- Assisting Planning with mapping and descriptions for Zoning overlay districts throughout the City.
- 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. Adjusting to losing our summer help.
- Private development work is still 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
- 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
- Getting SewerAI synced up with CityWorks and using it for both CCTV and coding
- 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, Heidi Fleege

We are excited to welcome Jenna Webb to the Admin team! She will be working with the contracting process.

September deadlines for Common Council resolutions are 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9 and 30

The next deadline for Common Council resolutions is 8 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9 (CC meeting is 9/16 and 10/7).

Finance

Steve Danner-Rivers, Financial Manager

The Finance Section continues to be busy with all the typical day to day accounting matters. We have now moved past the major milestones for the 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets. The Executive Capital Budget will be introduced on 9/2 while the Executive Operating Budget does not get introduced until 10/7. As we move into fall, the focus shifts to the preparatory tasks to close out the year including reviewing of open POs, closing out public and private contracts and doing any billings now to allow them to be paid by the end of the year and. All efforts to help with these tasks are greatly appreciated.

Construction Inspection

Kyle Frank, Principal Engineer, Section Manager

Inspectors have been very busy with utility installations, public works, and private development project as the push begins to get work finish before the end of the summer season, which is coming up quick. Surveyors continue to work on construction staking and working on completing surveys for the many upcoming 2026 projects. A couple public works projects will be starting yet in September, notable Main and Hancock and Tancho Bike Path/North East Pond Repairs. Warranty walkthroughs for 2024 projects are being completed for project close outs.

Coming and Going

New Hires

- Angel Pancoatl Saucedo (Architect 2) (Facilities)(he/him)
- Theran Stautz (Ecological Restoration Specialist 2)(he/him)
- Jenna Webb (program assistant 1) (Admin)(she/her)
- Renee Brune (Architect 2) (Facilities) (she/her)

Promotion

- None

Departures

- Patrick O'Neil (Engineer) (he/him)
- Tawada Hodges (Custodial Worker) (he/him)
- Tenoch Muralles-Covarrubias (SSMW1) (he/him)

GEAR: The Engineering Division Intranet Site

Don't forget to bookmark GEAR today!

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



Our Madison – Inclusive, Innovative & Thriving

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