

Public Information Meeting: John Nolen Drive Pre-Construction Meeting

#	Question	Answer
1	Is there still a bike/pedestrian tunnel under John Nolen planned, or has that been scrapped?	We evaluated the feasibility of an overpass/underpass structure. That report can be found on our website. At this time we do not have the construction of a structure programmed. The current design does not preclude it being built in the future.
2	Any concerns that narrowing the width of the lanes would affect buses and larger vehicles?	The city has lane widths of 10' on other major arterial streets. Those include: E Washington Ave, E Johnson St, University Ave, and Atwood Ave. All have larger vehicles and have been successful in this regard.
3	Will the new lighting meet Dark Sky standards? The City of Duluth successfully reduced illumination of a major thoroughfare. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxVXDTVCS1o	Yes, the lighting will meet Dark Sky standards. The color temperature is 3000K.
4	I realize this is a complicated project but its too much information too fast	Hi Helen, thank you for this feedback. Have you checked out our project page? It has a lot of information, but all there for anyone to digest however they'd like. Thank you for your feedback. -Hannah
5	During the construction, what is the anticipated traffic increase through the bay creek neighborhood, especially during rush hour? Has there been any thought in placing temporary traffic lights along Olin or Lakeside, or other mechanisms to ensure there isn't significant congestion?	We do not expect a significant increase on Lakeside Street due to congestion. Drivers who reach Lakeside Street will have already cleared the most congested area. For Olin Ave--Olin already takes the maximum amount of traffic during the morning commute. However, there will likely be a slight increase due to adjusted signal timing.. This past summer, we installed a new pedestrian flasher (RRFB) at Lake Ct in preparation of this project and will continually monitor this traffic during construction.
6	How will events take place with one lane of traffic in either direction, especially those that take place at Monona Terrace, to include Ironman WI.	Ironman bicyclists currently use a travel lane, and will do the same during construction. This means northbound traffic will be closed to general traffic for Ironman 2026. This segment of John Nolen Dr is expected to be completely open for Ironman 2027.
7	Proposed upgrades for Capital City Trail will clearly benefit pedestrians and all trail users, especially at intersections. However, will improvements (or enforcement?) address conflicts and reduced safety for trail users from the increasing use of Madison area trails - including the pathway along John Nolan Drive - by large electric motorcycles which do not require riders to pedal and move at high speeds, which are different from ebikes which only assist cyclists.	live answered
8	The traffic on John Nolen is currently a bottle neck during rush hour. I routinely have to wait for multiple lights in the morning where broom and lake shore drive meet John Nolan. Anything being done to increase traffic flow as speed as part of this project? I think this will get worse as madison continues to grow.	live answered
9	How will event traffic coming off the Beltline be notified?	We will work with specific events and with WisDOT for notification to drivers
10	has any consideration been given to fixing alternative routes the additional traffic will cause?	Yes, alternate routes will be monitored for traffic signal timing adjustments (longer green times on those routes). Other road work will not be allowed on those routes during the peak travel times.
11	I agree - too much, too fast	live answered
12	I have to go into work every day, and I work far outside of Madison. No choice of alternative transportation. John Nolen is my main access to the beltline. This sounds like a nightmare for years. What is the recommended alternative route from the east side of madison to the westbound beltline?	East Washington Avenue remains below capacity and expect many drivers to use that as an alternate option
13	Is it correct that there is no change in # of car lanes, bike lanes, ped lanes?	live answered
14	why would you consider "reduction capacity" on John Nolen Dr? It's such a major and beautiful way to get downtown.	live answered
15	If our organization has an event that requires travel on JOhn Nolan, who do we contact to coordinate the activity.	live answered
16	Is high water and flooding potential from global warming torrential rains being considered?	live answered
17	To get from Regent Street to the Beltline, I believe you said I will no longer be able to turn south onto John Nolen from North Shore. Would I be able to turn south on John Nolen during Stage 1 from Olin?	yes

18	The barrier between bike and ped, parallel to the path looks dangerous for skinny bike tires. Wouldn't it be better if they were 90 degrees to the path?	live answered
19	Did you consider a park and ride for those of us who come downtown from some of the outlying communities? I'd be happy to take Metro if I could park my car somewhere.	Hi Loretta! We have a map of all park-and-rides in Dane County on our website: https://www.cityofmadison.com/mpo/commuting-travel/ways-to-get-around/park-ride-lots . Here are also the ones that are Metro-served: https://www.cityofmadison.com/metro/how-to-ride/park-ride-lots
20	Will the bridges from Monona Bay have higher clearance?	live answered
21	Or just car lanes? Bottom line I thank you...	This was answered. Thank you Kathleen. -Hannah
22	What are your plans for improving traffic flow on Park, Fishhatch and Regent streets in anticipation of high demand during construction?	The city will limit any other roadwork and lane closures during peak travel times. Traffic signal timing will also be adjusted--longer green times for drivers to push more traffic through.
23	Will traffic lights be timed to increase traffic flow?	yes
24	Will W Washington be expanded back to 4 lanes around the bike path during the construction?	The city will monitor this and reopening to 4 lanes is an option if we see major congestion issues.
25	What kinds of soil amendments will be used for tree plantings and would they conflict with the goal of improving stormwater runoff quality from the roadway?	live answered
26	Will the project use low carbon concrete?	live answered
27	Has there been any thoughts, or consideration for near neighbors, older residents who don't bike, or changes in traffic on Lakeside St., Olin Ave., etc?	live answered
28	Thanks, Duluth started with 4000K and reduced to 2700 after community complaints and a survey of responses when those lights were reduced to 3000K. Is there any reason Madison can't go to 2700K to begin with?	We will have to look into this further. We will follow up.
29	Thank you. I currently take E. Wash to John Nolen to the beltline. I work in Dodgeville. Sounds like John Nolen might not be an option starting in October. Should I go through Monona, or to the interstate to the beltline? Might be better, or continue on my current path?	John Nolen will still be an option, but an alternate route may be faster.
30	Will the city and county open up any parking for ride share options during construction?	Hi Susan, Here's a link to a map showing all park-and-ride lots in Dane County:
30	Will the city and county open up any parking for ride share options during construction?	Sent too soon: https://www.cityofmadison.com/mpo/commuting-travel/ways-to-get-around/park-ride-lots
30	Will the city and county open up any parking for ride share options during construction?	Hi Susan! Here's a link to a map showing all park-and-ride lots in Dane County: https://www.cityofmadison.com/mpo/commuting-travel/ways-to-get-around/park-ride-lots . If you're interested in ridesharing, the MPO's RoundTrip program can help you find carpool partners by connecting you with people who have similar commutes.
31	How will you encourage drivers to slow down?	The street design will be less highway-like, and more urban (narrower lanes, more green space, urban lighting, no guardrails, curb
32	We are aware of the street use process. But see need to coordinate for pre-planning purposes and identify alternatives if needed.	Thank you for your feedback here, Brian. -Hannah
32	We are aware of the street use process. But see need to coordinate for pre-planning purposes and identify alternatives if needed.	Please send Kelly Post with Parks and email for this coordination. kpost@cityofmadison.com
33	With the closure of right turn lanes off of JND, this will cause additional slow downs and back ups. Why is this being done?	live answered
	Also with the temporary lane closures (may become permanent) on Willy Street, this in conjunction with JND construction is going to highly impact traffic flow in both directions. Why restrict traffic when there is more of it?	
34	Lakeway: Will there be a similar Q&A session before construction? I'm curious how the two efforts will be coordinated, including its timeline.	live answered
35	Will construction work continue over the winter, or will the project pause each winter with construction primarily taking place over the summer?	live answered
36	Thanks, Kayla, but there is nothing coming up from Oregon. Could a temporary park and ride be set up at Alliant Energy?	live answered

37	I am interested alternative methods of commuting to work, what is rolling and how do I get involved?	Hi Martha! The MPO's RoundTrip program can connect you with car-free and carpool transportation options. You can create a free account at: https://roundtripgreatermadison.org/ . If you choose to commute by bike, bus, carpool, or walking/rolling, you can also register for our Emergency Ride Home program. It provides up to six \$75 Union Cab vouchers each year for unexpected situations—like if you get sick or your carpool partner needs to leave early—so you'll always have a reliable way home.
38	I don't understand Tom's answer about Lakeside. Please review the slide - it looks like the reconstruction in Phase 1 starts after the northbound traffic from the beltline will reach Lakeside.	Thank you Cindy for your response here. If you'd like a further explanation, feel free to reach out to Tom Tmohr@cityofmadison.com .
39	How will accessibility to Monona Terrace parking be addressed	all driveways to Monona Terrace parking will be maintained
40	I avoid East Washington at all costs now to get to the East side/Sun Prairie due to the changes made that have caused it to be slow and inefficient (lights timing, slower speed, dedicated bus lanes). I have a hard time believing that changing the light timing will make it any better. Can you please address? Thank you!	thank you for the feedback. please try again. current travel times during peak hours are quicker than pre-covid
41	How many cars per hour will the new turn lanes be able to handle compared to current turn lanes?	it will be similar to today
42	Can you describe what traffic signage improvements are in scope for each phase? For Phase 1, will there be improvements when driving northbound from JND and turning left on to Broom - specifying in advance that the left lane continues on to Broom and the right lane turns on to Williamson (Phase 1)? Same question for Phase 3, will there be advanced signage for the southbound entrance from JND to the beltline specifying the lanes that merge eastbound vs westbound? Thanks	live answered
43	Will the duration of "green lights" be increased on Park Street, Fish Hatchery Road, and West Washington Ave. to accomodate the increased traffic to and from the downtown?	yes
44	How will residents along North Shore Drive be notified of closures? If there's a different way than road signs	there will be a project website, news releases, and electronic message boards
45	re interaction and coordination with the Lakeway project, will the proposed pedestrian boardwalk be out of scope for the project that is the topic of this meeting, and be part of the later Lakeway work that is intended to begin later?	live answered
46	I am loving hearing the focus on safety for bikers and pedestrians. People worried about car traffic should consider using the bus if it is possible for them. To make the bus feasible for us in the Indian Springs/Badger Rock neighborhood (south of the Alliant), we would need bus route expansion to properly serve this area. Our family usually bikes downtown (20min) because a bus would take over 50 min and go completely around lake Monona. We need buses that go down John Nolen in order for travel to downtown possible for us. This will remove car traffic and make travel for everyone more pleasant.	thank you. will will share with Metro Transit
47	What things are being done for the Beltline and E. Wash that will probably have more backed up traffic that spreads from John Nolan being backed up due to the decreased to just 1 lane each way?	live answered
48	When will the accessible fishing ramp be closed?	live answered
49	can you explain the difference between a new "traditional T intersection" at Broom and John Nolen and what is there right now?	live answered
50	What is your recommendation?	Hi Chris, I see Tom answered your earlier questions via typing. I reccomend reaching out to him via email if you'd like more detail here specifically. Tmohr@cityofmadison.com
51	What is the estimated travel time inbound from Lakeside St to Williamson during construction during morning rush hour?	live answered
52	Will there be any changes in routing and/or timing to the Route 65 bus?	Route 65 will remain open during JND construction. Tim Sobota (tsobota@cityofmadison.com) with Metro Transit can be contacted to provide clarification on whether Route 65 will be modified (routing + timing) during construction.
53	On an alternate route?	live answered

54	Why not build the new bridges at a high elevation since we have had flooding over John Nolen in the past, and will likely increase in the future. Why not take this chance to raise the bridges?	live answered
55	Are we able to download the slide deck? Is there a link?	https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/john-nolen-drive - the slides will be posted to the project page in the coming days. The Capital City Trail will be open in the coming months, it will not be impacted until next Summer.
	And....will the bike lanes stay open through the next month?	
56	Construction on the interstate might be a problem? Would love to hear about the coordination of all this	thank you
57	The bridges today have conduit that appears to carry utilities like fiber or cable, or maybe even power. Are the owners of those utilities responsible for notifying customers of disruptions, or is that something the City handles?	live answered
58	Are there long term plans for a park and ride on the south side to handle the cars that come into Madison from CTH M and USH 14?	live answered
59	During construction, do you anticipate cyclists choosing to bike in the road with traffic rather than going around that long detour?	during the bike path detour, we do not expect to see a significant number of path users using the street. this detour has been implemented two separate times, and we did not see this
60	Thanks, Tom.	live answered
61	I'm asking about all the potholes on gorham, johnson, park st, and olive av?	Hi Joe, please feel free to reach out to Aaron on this one via email. acanton@cityofmadison.com
62	never mind....found the link	live answered
63	I know that there has been a lot of community input on the lakeshore development. I am wondering what community input has been to slowing down traffic on John Nolen?	live answered
64	Do you have a link to the presentation? I came in late.	Hi Monika, it can all be found on the project page-- and we'll post in the next 12/24 hours. -Hannah
65	What is the current vehicle capacity per hour from Olin Ave To Williamson St. ? Will this change?	about 2,000 veh/hour per direction during the peak hours. this will not change significantly
66	I just read an article about Dark Sky implementation in the paper (NT Times or WI State Journal) within the last couple of days. A community reduced lighting from 3000 to 2700 K at resident requests. It is better for people, and also reduces impacts on birds/animals.	thank you. we will investigate this
67	I'm guessing with lots of people finding alternative routes that W Wash/Fish Hatch will see increased traffic. Are there improvements planned there (e.g. light timing, etc.)/is the city looking at increasing Metro traffic to popular business areas out that way like Research Park, Epic, and others?	yes, we will monitor changes in traffic routes and adjust as needed. Metro Transit does not have changes planned for construction
68	So it doesn't sound like anything is being done to increase traffic flow and volume on John Nolan. Give the expected growth and increased population density on the isthmus, why isn't this a priority.	Thank you for this feedback, Wolfgang. This is noted for our team to review. - Hannah
69	When there are accidents on John Nolen it's difficult for emergency vehicles to pass, especially when the accident is on the bridge portion. Are there any opportunities to help emergency vehicles navigate JN without impacting traffic. I can think of multiple times where this has happened in the past 6 or 7 months.	live answered
70	Historically, I believe there have been problems with the soil of the causeway, issues like settling/subsidence, requiring significant mitigation measures (please forgive any imprecise language). Do you anticipate any future structural issues related to the soil with this project and if so how do you plan to address those?	live answered
71	Will there be construction on Park Street over this same timeframe?	no, not during the morning or afternoon commuter times
72	You may have addressed it earlier but please remind me why we aren't having more car lanes added rather than just relying on traffic signal adjustments, etc.	Hi Angela, we've addressed this and you're welcome to re-watch the recording when it's posted to our project page. You can also reach out to Aaron Canton at acanton@cityofmadison.com for any other questions after via email. Thank you- Hannah
73	Will Park Street be "construction free" during the John Nolen construction?	yes
74	Article in NY Times on implementation of new lighting, and preference for 2700 K, in Pittsburgh, was dated 7/22/25 but was in the online version 9/21.	Thank you for this feedback Kathleen. Noted. -Hannah
75	Absolutely agree with Wolfgang. As a commuter on John Nolen for 28 years, the burden for commuters is not being addressed. There is one route to Fitchburg from the near East Side--JND. The brief experiment of reducing from 3 lanes to 2 lanes was a nightmare for commuters and dangerous.	thank you for this feedback

76	On east Washington right for before Blair, there is a construction project that has the right lane closed. This is impeding the flow around the square. How long will this lane be closed?	this will only be in place during their demolition phase and will be reopened when John Nolen Drive construction begins
77	How would traffic coming from the Beltline/ West side use East Washington as an alternative option?	west side options to downtown include University Ave or Fish Hatchery Rd to Park Street
78	How about for those turning left onto JN from Lakeside will adjustments be made to accomodate those cars? Will we have a lot of blocked intersections?	live answered
79	Those of us who live along JND received notice that construction will be taking place at night, for I believe 60 nights. Is that still the case?	There are a total of 60 nights of night work, majority of this will be along the causeway itself away from any residences, only about 8 nights of work will occur closer to the North Shore/Broom intersections. Night work is mostly related to bridge work that requires full closures.
80	Where pedestrian crossings that where not at grade considered for this project? Seems like the safest solution	live answered
81	Thanks!	live answered
82	What are the expected speed limits on the causeway during and after construction?	we expect lower speeds during and after construcion due to narrowing lanes and a more urban feel to street vs the highway-like setting now
83	what is the project page site?	https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/john-nolen-drive
84	Travelling towards Broom, the 2 bridges are like roller coaters that are sometimes hard to see pedestrians in intersection. Are there any thoughts to increase the visibility between vehicles and pedestrians?	live answered
85	Was a pedestrian overpass considered from JND to Broom and/or North Shore similar to what was constructed along University Ave at University Bay Dr?	live answered
86	nevermind the project page. I found it.	https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/john-nolen-drive
87	Are you planning on permanently lowering the speed limits on John Nolan?	we are continuing to monitor post construction for any changes
88	I expect to not be able to back out of my driveway on the first block of Lakeside St. coming off John Nolen Dr.	live answered
89	So that mean you are considering permanently lowering the speed limit on John Nolan?	Hi Wolfgang, if you'd like to discuss closures further-- feel free to connect with Tom Mohr-- tmohr@cityofmadison.com for follow up after the meeting. -Hannah
89	So that mean you are considering permanently lowering the speed limit on John Nolan?	The speed limit on this section will remain at 35 mph, which is currently existing
90	The reason for not having more car lanes added rather than just relying on traffic signal adjustments, etc. Was not clearly addressed earlier	Hi Angela, feel free to reach out to Aaron Canton for follow up if you feel like it wasn't addressed. acanton@cityofmadison.com - Hannah
91	Thanks for the great presentation! Alder Madison	Thank you Alder! -Hannah
92	What is the expected life of this project? Will this take us into the next three decades?	The bridges are typically designed to have a 75-100 year design life. The pavement will require maintenance but nothing significant for ~20 years.