



DMI Director's Report – September 2025

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community

- DMI hosted a What's Up Downtown Breakfast on the 100th anniversary of the Madison Symphony Orchestra with the MSO's Robert Reed and John DeMain.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuqO5wvQ9wA>
- DMI and Milwaukee Downtown hosted our quarterly MSN+MKE Downtown Exchange on 8 80 cities with Tom Linfield, President & CEO, Madison Children's Museum; Amber Miller, Senior Associate State Director-Community Outreach, AARP Wisconsin; and Michael Vanblaricum, President/CEO, Serving Older Adults
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdFZWRawYFg>
- The August DMI Advocacy Update featured a discussion on the future of Regent Street with Sam Brown, Owner of Greenbush Bar, Fabiola's, and Leopold's.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INrghXB5whE>
- DMI hosted our Downtown Happening's Podcast with Kari Mysker with Ether Wellness
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPh3E8oW2VQ>
- DMI is working with several partners, led by the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, on a business survey to assess current and projected economic conditions in our region. The results of this survey will help us understand the *Next Normal* (N²) for work, place and workplaces.
- Nine Board and one staff member we're named to this year's InBusiness Magazine Power 100 list.

DMI Media Mentions:

- August 20 – Madison Magazine - [5 Things to Know as Downtown Madison Planning Begins](#)
- September 2 – Wisconsin State Journal - [Madison Area Bleeds Office Space as Companies Downsize](#)
- September 5 – InBusiness Magazine - [InBusiness Power 100 List](#)
- September 5 – Spectrum News - [Plans for Expanded Lakeshore Along Lake Monona Underway](#)

Presentations:

- Jason said a few words at the ribbon cutting of the City of Madison's Wilson Street corridor opening.
- Jason and Emily presented a downtown update to UW's Campus and Visitor Relations in-service staff meeting.
- Jason hosted a tour of Downtown Madison with 35 leaders from San Luis Obispo, CA. Jason also moderated a housing/density panel discussion with the same group.
- Jason presented to the Rotary Club of Madison on the Madison LakeWay Project.

- Jason recorded a podcast for Upper House on Downtown and development with Peter Tan from Strang.

Economic Development:

- The Economic Development Committee welcomed Deana Porter and Emily Mehl from Broadwing Advisors for a presentation/update on the Downtown Madison real estate market.
- Jason and Emily attended the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce's quarterly meeting of the Madison Neighborhood Business Council.
- The Cap East Business Association (CEBA) welcomed Lt. Dave Meinert from the Madison Police Department to their August Board meeting.
- DMI hosted the August meeting of the City of Madison's Economic Development Division strategic plan advisory group.
- DMI hosted a joint Regent Street Business Association and Regent Street Group meeting. At the meeting we heard a presentation from KL Engineering on the upcoming design work for the reconstruction of Regent Street, gave an update on the East End of the Regent Street vision, and discussed the recent Camp Randall concerts.

Membership Development:

- Membership Development met in August to review ambassadorships and potential new members.
- DMI welcomed several new members:

Consolidated Electrical Distributors Inc.	www.cedmadison.com
Lutheran Social Services	www.lsswis.org
Madison Media Partners	https://madisonmediapartners.com
Newport Network Solutions Inc.	https://newportnetworksolutions.com
RAYGUN	https://raygunsite.com
Wake-N-Bakery	https://www.wakenbakery.net/locations/madison/

Transportation:

- The Transportation Committee is meeting in September to hear a presentation and discuss curb management with the City of Madison's Stefanie Cox and Liz Callin.

Quality of Life:

- DMI hosted the quarterly Catholic Charities/DMI Beacon Homelessness Issues Group. Dozens of local leaders attended and gave reports on their respective work.
- The Quality of Life Committee meeting heard a presentation from Tom Farley with Recovery.com on understanding addiction.

Beyond Compliance:

- The Beyond Compliance Subcommittee hosted a discussion planning for 2026.

Inclusiveness:

- DMI hosted the August meeting of the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR) at Husch Blackwell.

Government Relations:

- The Government Relations Committee did not meet in September.

For questions and more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or jilstrup@downtownmadison.org.