



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Planning Division

Website: www.cityofmadison.com

Madison Municipal Building, Suite LL100
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
P.O. Box 2985
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2985
FAX 608 267-8739
PH 608 266-4635

TO: Madison Plan Commission

FROM: Steve Cover, Director, Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development

DATE: August 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Legistar #26603 Amending City Ordinances to Prohibit Taxi Cabs Waiting for Passengers on State Street

This ordinance has been introduced to repeal language allowing taxi cabs to enter State Street and wait in designated loading areas. Michael May, City Attorney has addressed questions of the Downtown Coordinating Committee in his memorandum of July 9, 2012 on the subject ordinance.

In general, the Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development is very concerned with the use of State Street by passenger vehicles. As it pertains to the proposed Alternate Ordinance, the Department is concerned about the potential increase of taxi cabs using State Street. The use and enjoyment of the street is directly affected by the number and type of vehicles which are allowed to utilize the street. Those who take a stroll down the street, dine outdoors or just relax on a bench are impacted by the noise, bright lights and emissions of passenger vehicles. Recognizing these negative impacts, the City has, over the years, undertaken initiatives to reduce vehicles on the street, including removing several Madison Metro routes from lower State Street and restricting delivery vehicles during certain hours.

In addition to the aesthetic and enjoyment factors, fewer vehicles on the street will result in a safer environment for pedestrians, both during the day and especially at night. State Street was designed 40 years ago as a fixed guide way/transit mall. The redesign of State Street in 2005 continued State Street's use as a fixed guide/transit mall way with enhanced pedestrian accommodations including a more shallow curb which facilitates pedestrians crossing the street mid-block. It is extremely important that pedestrians and users of the street feel safe and comfortable crossing State Street. In addition, the Department is concerned that the Alternate Ordinance may set the precedent for future expansion of passenger vehicle traffic on State Street.

In conclusion, State Street is a special place. There are very few streets like it in the country. By allowing the expanded use of State Street by taxis, the uniqueness and quality of the State Street experience, and its function as a fixed guide way/transit mall, would be compromised. This would be true for any time of the day, even in the late hours. Therefore, the Department does not recommend approval of the Alternate Ordinance.



[Print](#)

Subject: **Fixed Guideway Funds for Madison Metro**

From: **christopher.bertch@dot.gov**

Sent: **Monday, July 02, 2012 1:46:20 PM**

To: **christina_ballard@lycos.com**

Hi Christina,

Sorry it's taken longer than expected to respond – had some conference calls to prepare for. I've actually been discussing this topic with our Regional Legal Counsel. On Friday she spoke with Carolyn Hogue at Madison Metro about this same issue. It sounds like the transit operators need to provide input into whether or not the cabs are having a negative impact on the efficiency of the transit system. While there are no definite restrictions on cabs picking up/dropping off passengers along a "fixed guideway", at some point there would need to be a threshold on how often cabs are allowed on State St. (hours of operation, traffic volume, etc.). As of now there is no language in the grant that restricts this type of use. Typically, FTA prefers to allow accessibility to only, buses, paratransit and emergency vehicles within fixed guideway right-of-ways.

Carolyn is out this week but we plan on speaking with her next week. I will follow up with you then.

Regards,

Chris

Chris R. Bertch, AICP | Community Planner
U.S. Dept. of Transportation | Federal Transit Administration
200 West Adams Street #320 | Chicago IL 60606
T: 312.353.3853 | E: christopher.bertch@dot.gov

City of Madison Division of Traffic Engineering Taxicab Complaint Form



TAXI COMPLAINANT CONTACT INFO.

Incident number 76

Name of complainant Jimmy W

TAXI DRIVER/COMPANY INFO

Taxicompanies Madison Taxi

Complainant email

taxicab number

name of driver/description lic plate# 130-LJT

Taxico Investigator Rick Nesvacil

COMPLAINT INFO.

date of complaint 6/22/2012

date of incident 6/22/2012

time of incident 1:30 AM

locaton of incident Capital Square/State Street

Type of in unsafe driving

What occurred

At 1:30 AM Friday June 22 I was riding my bike on the Capitol Square in the right lane, the one for buses, bicycles, and right turns. For four blocks from Main/Pinckney to Mifflin/Carroll I had to share my lane with a Madison Taxi, license 130-LJT. My goodness that ticked me off, and it wasn't the first time I have seen taxis utilizing that restricted lane instead of the left lane. The taxi picked up passengers in front of the Veterans Museum. Then, seeing the taxi turn right onto State St., I followed it. It turned left at Gorham St, not using turn signals by the way, and then went on Gorham and University and turned left on Park Street, again not using left turn signals. This is when I could no longer keep up with it. I did this to see if the passengers were being dropped off further down State St. It turns out that no, the passengers were not being picked up on nor being droppedoff on State Street. Instead, the taxi was using State St as a connector.

Taxico Investigation findings:

Keith, To answer the complaint the drivers name was Jim Ellestad , he states he was flaged down on King St. and was going to go to the Gyro Place/ Parthonon on State Street. But he changed his mine after getting a call from someone on the phone . He went then went to another destination in the South Mills Street area.. I hope this answers your question

Rick

Nesvacil General Manager Madison Taxi
----- Original Message -----
From: Pollock, Keith
To: 'Rick'

Resolution

Original document Original document

Date of Closure

CHECK WHEN CASE IS CLOSED

