

# **CITY OF MADISON TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

## **ACTION ITEM DETAIL – FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**ACTION TITLE:** DISCUSSION REGARDING THE UPDATED ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

**PRESENTER:** ANN Kovich

### **ACTION SUMMARY**

Action requested is to review and discuss the Updated Elected and Appointed Official Code of Conduct

### **BACKGROUND**

Updated Elected and Appointed Official Code of Ethical Conduct (Version 1) was reviewed and recommended to the Common Council by the Transportation Commission (TC) on 6/25/2025. Common Council approved Version 3 of the Code on 11/25/2025 (Leg File 87483).

As noted in the resolution passed by the Common Council on 1/3/2023 (Leg File 70642): “Each City Board, Commission, and Committee shall discuss the Code of Ethical Conduct as an item on its agenda annually.”

### **DESCRIPTION**

Since the code was reviewed by TC on 6/25/2025, some fairly minor updates have been made. Most noticeable change was in the name, which was modified to “Elected and Appointed Official Code of Conduct.” Please see the attached final approved version of the Code in Legistar. I believe the changes incorporated into the final version make the Code clearer and easier to follow for TC members.

This Code addresses the most common question I get asked as TC Chair – “Conduct Toward the Media and Press.” This section reads as follows:

“When speaking with the media, elected and appointed officials must ensure statements do not misrepresent City policy or undermine public trust in City governance.

- Identify when they are speaking in their official role and avoid misrepresenting City actions or decisions.
- When speaking in a personal capacity, officials should make clear that their views are their own and not those of the City, while ensuring such statements do not undermine public trust or create a perception of acting in an official capacity. This is to avoid misrepresentation, not limiting opinions or statements of officials.
- Avoid discussing personnel matters or the performance of individual staff members with the media or press.”

### **EQUITY GOAL IMPACTS**

TC members have made an ongoing commitment to include Racial Equity and Social Justice in their work on a consistent basis, which includes the “welcoming, courteous and inclusive environment” referenced in the Code on page 1.

### **FISCAL & PROCUREMENT DETAILS**

No fiscal impact is identified.