

From: [Paul Bailey](#)
To: [Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [noreply](#)
Subject: Implementation of approval of variances; TC item 92691
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 12:39:27 AM

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Hi,

I am asking for a change in how transportation commission operates and how the city presents design changes to this body. I think some changes are needed to implement MGO.

MGO 33.56(b).3.iv states, in part, "The Transportation Commission shall determine the right-of-way use and geometric designs to be included in the final plans and specifications sent to the Board of Public Works and Common Council for approval, with Transportation Commission approval required for any geometric design variances from the Complete Green Streets Guide."

Based on observing this body I'm unaware of how approval is granted. In my reading, the approval of variances appears to have to be distinct from approving the geometry. As a citizen and someone interested in transparency in how the city operates, I would encourage you to request that the city enumerate the variances it is asking for and provide a rationale for the request. An alternative is that transportation commission could enumerate them during meetings, which sounds like it would lengthen meetings even more.

Fully documenting variances TC grants would help me understand the role of complete green streets, and I think it would help you update complete green streets so that it describes the actual process of street design in Madison.

Fatalities on roads in Madison are rising, we need to make sure we are doing what we can to help bring them back down. I think having a design document that fully captures how we manage streets would be a good step along the path to seeing this rise. To get there we'll need better documentation of where the current complete green streets isn't meeting the community's needs and so should be updated to capture our priorities.

Best,
Paul Bailey
Hill Farms