



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved DOWNTOWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

*Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?
Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

Thursday, October 20, 2022

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 215 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Michael E. Verveer; Adam J. Plotkin; Ted Crabb; Davy Mayer and Sandra J. Torkildson
Excused: 2 - Patrick W. Heck and Barbara Harrington-McKinney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Mayer, to Approve the September 15, 2022 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [61242](#) Public Comment
None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

2. Introductions

City staff introduced Dan McAuliffe, Planning Division, who will be taking over the secretary's role of the Downtown Coordinating Committee starting in January 2023.

3. [74162](#) Approving the 2023 Operating Plan for Madison's Central Business Improvement District. (2nd, 4th, and 8th A.D.)

On a motion by Crabb, seconded by Mayer, the Downtown Coordinating Committee recommends approval of the 2023 Operating Plan for Madison's Central Business Improvement District as dated 10-20-22 in the Legislative file. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Mayer, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [73210](#) Future of State Street Discussion

Madison Police Department (MPD) Lt. Ed Marshall and Officer Ben Enstrom were available to answer questions. The following issues regarding State Street were

discussed:

- Access and access control are MPD's biggest concern. They could have officers patrol on foot, but that comes with an expense of other users.
- MPD are interested in quick access/ retractable bollards but there are challenges in winter that would need to be addressed. How would MPD bring additional equipment (squad car) into the space to assist as only one officer is assigned to State Street - others patrol by vehicle from surrounding areas
- Delivery vehicles present potential conflicts with emergency vehicles - some potential delivery zones could be created at end of blocks
- Verveer noted the pilot program in summer of 2021, which utilized "soft barricades/ signs" on weekends. Marshall said that it does work for MPD, but signs/ soft barriers would not stop potentially inappropriate users that could drive down the street into pedestrians.
- There continues to be an issue with delivery vehicles over lunch - MPD will coordinate with parking enforcement to talk about increasing enforcement and education.
- Mayer asked about Uber/Lyft? MPD said that they generally stay off State Street. However, Door Dash drivers have increased driving on State Street.
- Crabb asked about weekend traffic control on Gilman/State/Broom intersection. MPD said that it is a busy area at night on the weekends, and that MPD closes the intersection off. Other times it is controlled by signage at 90% compliance. If there was pedestrians in the street, barricades would help - as a temporary measure for a pilot.
- Crabb said that some of the biggest problems along State Street - trespassing, open alcohol containers, drug use would have no changes if pedestrian mall.
- Torkildson noted that there are no restaurants and bars at Library Mall Area of State Street- bikes slow when crowded on Library - but they are fast on 100-600 State Street since it's a transition area.
- Crabb would like a series of trials to test out different arrangements of pedestrians, barricades, cafes and others before making a final decision on closing State Street.

Department of Civil Rights Discussion on ADA issues

Rebecca Hoyt, Disability Rights Coordinator, and Jane Manske and Melissa Madole, members of the Disability Rights Commission were available to answer questions. The following issues regarding State Street were discussed:

- Hoyt, Manske and Madole have a strong preference to maintain existing sidewalks, with a separation of cyclists, and audible cross walks. There are tripping hazards with ramps that would protrude into the street, and curb cuts are much safer than ramps. Manske added that maintaining the sidewalk for access to businesses is also important, as removing visual access to business would be potentially detrimental.
- Mayer asked about the status quo of the street. Hoyt said that that the block they visited (400 block by the Visitor's Center) was great with tight seams between sidewalk slabs, but that condition is not consistent throughout the city. Pavers / sidewalk seams were very tight together - greatly preferable for those using mobility assisting devices. Curb cuts midblock would be good.
- Verveer asked about sidewalk cafes and Streatery. Hoyt said that they have a follow-up meeting with the Vending Coordinator. They added that there is a need for some tables that wheelchairs or scooters can get to more readily.

Businesses maximize tables, which often doesn't allow access.

- Crabb asked about the bike conflicts on the 700-800 blocks as well as East Campus Mall. They replied that they would prefer a designated area or painted area for bicycles, as speed and visibility are issues, but that they would ask around to others about their experiences there.
- Crabb said that he thinks the 700 and 800 block work. Pedestrians have 2 choices - sidewalks and center of street. Density of pedestrians cause bikes to go slow and weave. There are options to allow people to choose speeds
- Verveer said that he is considering the idea of a road closure with soft barricades on weekends as a pilot, but to keep sidewalks open.

Verveer thanked the guests for valuable input and asked staff to make sure to invite Madison Fire Department Chief Carbon and the interim Fire Marshall to the January meeting.

Staff reminded the Committee that there is no November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Turkildson, to Adjourn at 7:30 pm.
The motion passed by voice vote/other.**