



Department of Transportation

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Date: 2/21/2023

From: Tom Lynch, Director of Transportation

Re: Summary of changes to MGO 33.55 & 33.56 (Legistar 75901 and 75910)

Legistar 75910 - Creating Section 33.56(5)(e) of the Madison General Ordinances to add Green Streets initiative to the responsibilities of the Transportation Commission

This ordinance change is the smaller of the two being considered. It provides the Transportation Commission (TC) the powers and responsibilities given by the adoption of Complete Green Streets resolution, approved January 3, 2023 (legistar 74926). This includes granting the TC the ability to modify the Complete Green Streets Policy Guide to address unforeseen challenges, approve updates to the Transit Priority Network, and approve updates to All Ages Ability Bike Network. In addition, the Resolution provides street construction and reconstruction that vary from the Complete Green Streets Policy Guide shall only be implemented if approved by the TC.

Legistar 75901 - Repealing Section 33.55 and 33.56 and recreating Section 33.56 of the Madison General Ordinances to create a Transportation Commission, and amending Sections 3.14 and 16.01 to remove references to the Transportation Policy and Planning Board

This ordinance implements Complete Green Streets changes just as Legistar 75910. But this ordinance goes much further in that it combines the Transportation Policy and Planning Board (TPPB) and TC, rolling the transportation planning, policy, and implementation functions into one larger body. MGO 33.55 describing the functions of the TPPB is repealed, and MGO 33.56 describing the functions of the TC is re-created. Key points of this new ordinance include:

TC Membership

- 6 resident members, 1 regional representative, 4 alders, 2 resident alternates. (Total 13 w/ alternates) The membership has very specific representation, including one member each from Board of Public Works (BPW), Plan Commission (PC), Sustainable Madison Committee, and Greater Madison MPO. *Currently the combined TPPB and TC have 12 resident members, 1 regional rep, 5 alders, 4 alternates. (Total 22 w/ alternates, of which 2 are crossover members – which reduces it to 20 w/alternates)*

TC Powers and Duties (Summary)

- Transportation Policies - Consider, develop, and recommend for adoption by the Common Council (CC) transportation policies and plans for all elements of the City's transportation system. Make recommendations to CC regarding transportation ordinances and transportation budgets.
- Transportation System Oversight - Review and approve all major changes to the City's transportation system encompassing all modes. (Note some powers are delegated to Transportation Department staff). Complete Green Streets Powers as described in the above legistar 75910.

- Road Construction Projects - Determine right of way use and geometric designs to be included into final plans and specs. (Sent to BPW and CC for approval)

Appeals

Some TC actions are appealable to the CC within 20 days of the TC decision, and are overridden with a 2/3 majority CC vote. Appealable actions include:

- Decisions made by TC regarding Transportation System Oversight.
- Transit services standards, fares, routes, hours of operation, etc.
- Off street parking rates, garage operation, revenue collection
- Safety programs and projects, school crossings, ped and bike safety projects, traffic signals.

Observations of Legistar 75901

- By combining the TC and TPPB, there will be fewer and different members. This will not affect alder appointments as much with the new Common Council term. However, there will be 6 fewer resident appointments if alternates are included. Some who are currently serving on the TC or TPPB may not with the reorganization.
- Some TC members must also be members of other City committees/commissions. This includes Board of Public Works, Plan Commission, Sustainable Madison Committee, and the Greater Madison MPO. For some crossover members, this could represent a larger time commitment.
- Because of the larger responsibility of the TC, some power/duties would need delegation to Transportation Department staff. A working document of this delegation is being developed.
- By combining the TC and the TPPB, overall there will likely be fewer yet longer meetings. A review of 2021 meeting duration showed the TC with 64 hours, and the TPPB with 49 hours. There could be efficiencies with a combined committee.

Staff Suggestions and Considerations

- The proposed membership of the TC is very specific, with members that must be members of several other committees that meet on Mondays (PC), Tuesdays (CC), Wednesdays (BPW & MPO), and variable (Sustainable Madison). Having the proposed membership be recommended rather than mandated may provide more flexibility in scheduling and aid in member recruitment.