



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, September 15, 2022

5:30 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 153 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Michael E. Verveer; Patrick W. Heck; Adam J. Plotkin; Ted Crabb; Davy Mayer and Sandra J. Torkildson
Excused: 1 - Barbara Harrington-McKinney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Torkildson, to Approve the August 18, 2022 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. [61242](#) Public Comment
None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

- None
2. [69766](#) Report of Mall Maintenance and Special Events 2022
Mark Kiesow, Parks Division, gave a brief update on mall maintenance staff activities. He said that there are no plans for a Freakfest on Halloween this year, however Mall Maintenance staff will remove some items and prepare the streets for crowds as needed. Kiesow said that he is looking into a new design for some of the planters, and is doing a tree grate assessment in the Mall area. He added that the Mall Maintenance team is fully staffed.
3. [73372](#) To approve the schedule of Special Charges for the State Street Mall/Capitol Concourse for 2021/22 Maintenance Charges.
January Vang and Lisa Laschinger, Parks Division were present to answer questions. Mayer asked if the State and University paid for their share of the costs, i.e. the 800 block of University. Laschinger said that the City sends them a bill, but that it is not usually, if ever paid. Mayer asked if there is a shortfall every year because of non-payment. Laschinger said that she could look into it further. Crabb asked why 420 W Gorham is not in the billed area. Laschinger said that it does not have frontage on

the service area, which stops just short of that address, likely due to the narrow sidewalks. Crabb asked if Kiesow could look to see if it could be added in the future.

A motion was made by Torkildson, seconded by Crabb, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

4. [73210](#)

Future of State Street Discussion

Rebecca Cnare, Planning Division, reviewed the memo regarding the possibility of a future pedestrian mall on lower State Street. She said that before City staff could support a study to look into a potential pedestrian mall, there were three main issues that would need to be addressed:

- Who would manage the space?
- There should be a business/property owner survey to gauge interest for a pilot/study and to understand business concerns regarding deliveries, locations of pedestrian pathways, among other issues, and
- How to maintain ADA accessibility.

Crabb expressed concern that the memo and agenda didn't address the six "buckets" of items previously discussed. Cnare said that she had met with several agencies to create the memo identifying critical items to be addressed before discussing other design and testing issues. She added that there is no capacity for staff to manage a pedestrian mall, or engage in a business survey to make sure that the businesses on State Street understand the trade-offs with creating a pedestrian mall. Torkildson said it would cost a lot of money to create a real pedestrian mall to either lower the curbs or raise the street and that the DCC learned that TID funds would not be available for such a project in the short term.

Susan Springman, President of Madison Central Business Improvement District (BID), registered as available to answer questions. She said that the BID could potentially be a partner for the business survey and perhaps even managing the mall, but it is not in their budget to manage the space either. She added that deliveries might be one of the biggest issues for businesses.

Heck asked how much it would cost to hire a consultant to do a business survey. He asked if the new TID #50 money could be used for a survey. Cnare said that she would have to discuss the idea with Economic Development Staff. She added that a survey might be able to happen for \$20,000 or more, but that it takes staff time to go through the City's RFP process.

Crabb said that he recalls that the Fire Department would be flexible on the 20-foot requirement. Cnare noted that she linked to the previous minutes from their discussions with the Fire Department, and that they can only be flexible where the 20-foot lane is located. Crabb said that he would like the Fire Department to come to their next meeting to determine their needs.

Plotkin asked DCC members to step up and help work on the business survey and management issues.

Verveer said that he thinks there could be a minimal approach, where the only pilot is to have someone close the street, and leave the existing sidewalk access without larger management, not unlike the 2020 weekend test during COVID. Verveer added

that perhaps we could have a TID amendment to the Capital Budget for a business survey. Springman asked if it would be less complicated to give the BID funds to hire someone for the survey.

On a motion by Crabb, seconded by Plotkin, the DCC approved the following motion:

As there will no longer be busses on the lower half of State Street starting in June 2023, the DCC would like City staff to invite several City agencies over the next several meetings to present issues and ideas related to a non-vehicular roadway / pedestrian mall on the 400-600 blocks of State Street. The Committee would like to start with Mall Maintenance, and the Police and Fire Departments at its October 20 meeting, and then work with the remainder of the following agencies and groups in the coming months: Office of Business Resources, Vending, Transportation and Traffic Engineering, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, ADA specialists from the Department of Civil Rights, Downtown Madison Inc., Madison's Central Business Improvement District and Greater State Street Business Association.

5. [73609](#)

Downtown Coordinating Committee Meeting Schedule

The DCC discussed and decided to keep meeting in person. They approved the Schedule of 2023 meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Crabb, seconded by Torkildson, to Adjourn at 7:25 pm. The motion passed by voice vote/other.