

HOUSING FORWARD

OVERVIEW OF JUNE 2025 PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Meagan Tuttle, AICP, Planning Division Director
Housing Policy Committee, June 26, 2025





Meeting housing needs for all
in a growing city



Housing **FORWARD**

#1 Increase Housing Choice

- Pursue more code and process changes to support small-scale “missing middle” housing, including duplexes, townhomes, and small apartment buildings

Agenda Item 3, Leg ID 88736

- Look for ways to make lot division and subdivision processes simpler to create more new lots for homes

Agenda Item 4, Leg ID 88735

- Continue to simplify zoning standards for infill housing citywide, including specific options that make sense downtown

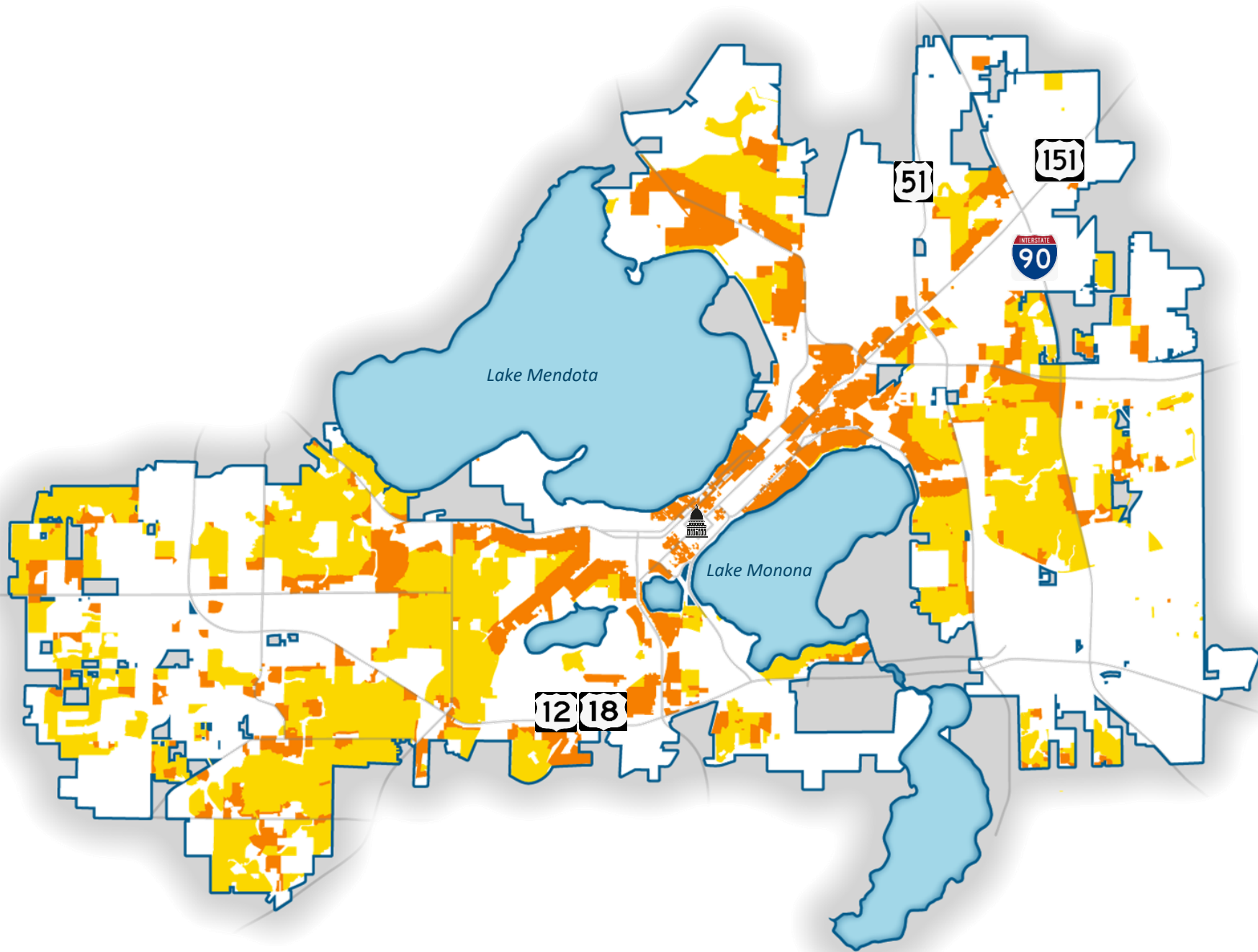
Agenda Item 5, Leg ID 88737



Allow duplexes & twin homes in all residential zoning districts



- Amends Zoning Code to allow duplexes & twin homes (2-unit buildings) where single-family homes (1-unit buildings) are allowed
- Expands change made in 2023 for areas closest to transit to entire city
- Intended to promote more small-scale housing choices in the long term

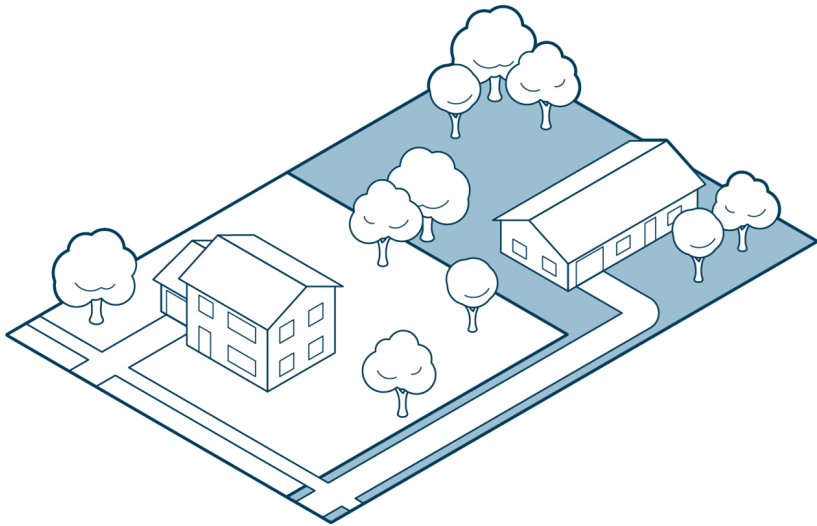


2-unit Buildings

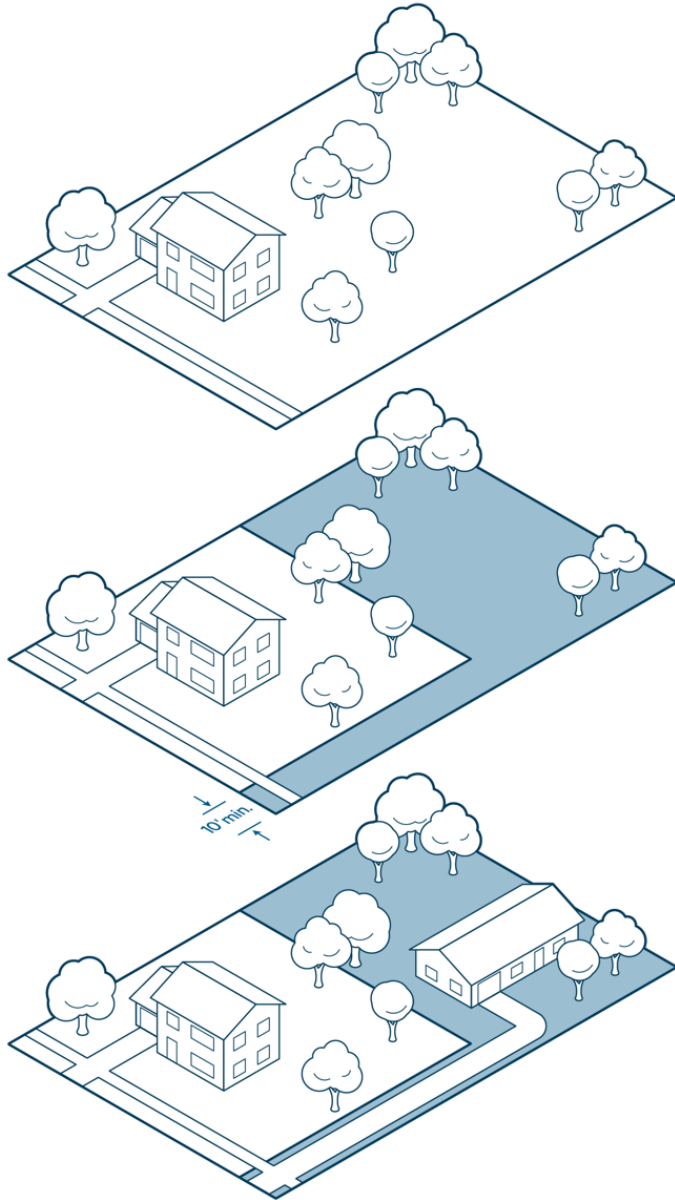
 Allowed today

 Proposed expansion

Allow more “backyard lots”



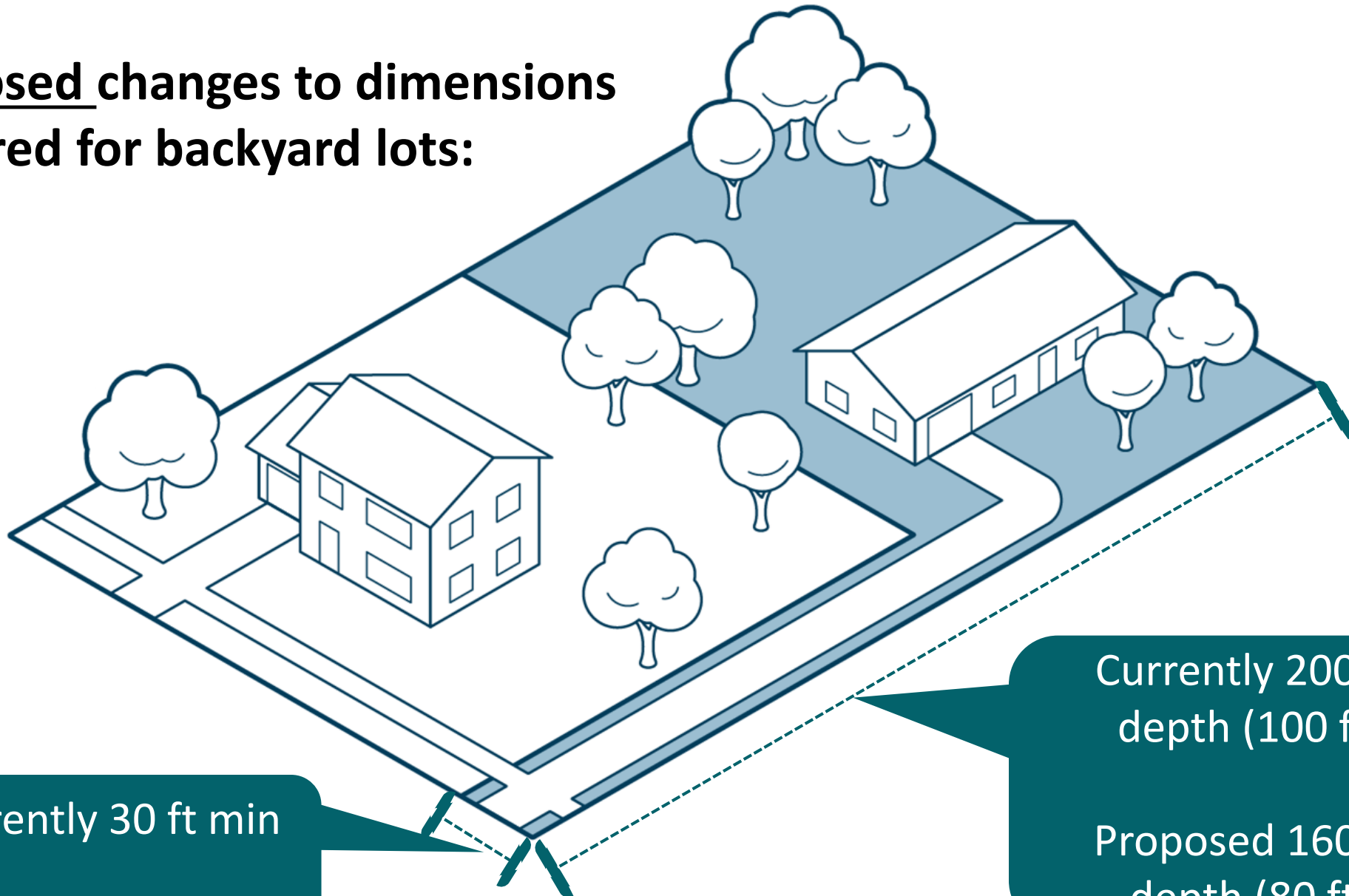
- Changes make it easier to divide a large lot to create a new “backyard lot” (also known as “flag lot; “deep residential lot” in Madison General Ordinances)
- New housing choices and homeownership opportunities in existing neighborhoods



1. Large residential lot meets all specifications
2. Owner splits lot to create “backyard lot” to sell to new neighbor or keep for future options
3. Owner of “backyard lot” builds new home



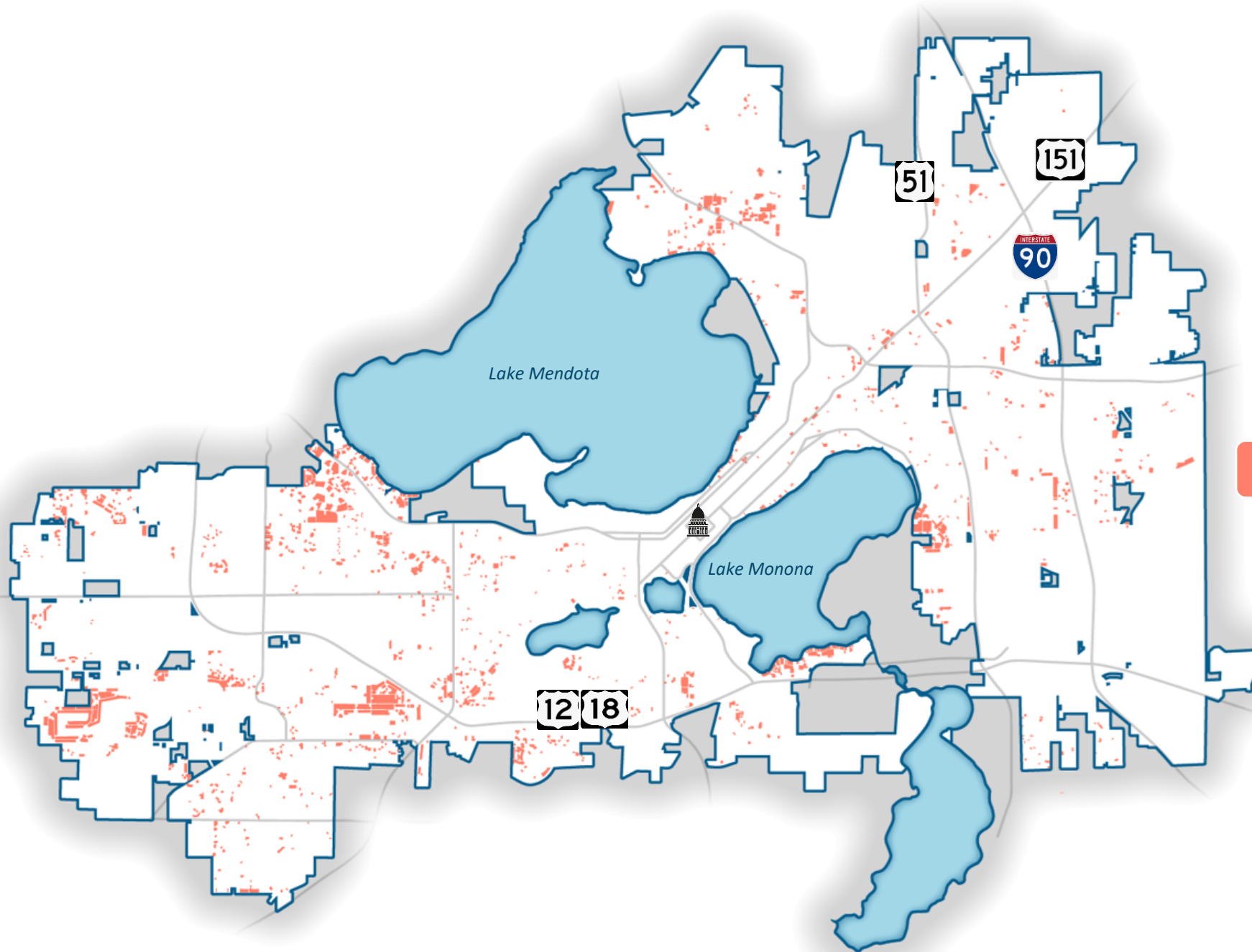
Proposed changes to dimensions required for backyard lots:



Currently 30 ft min
Proposed 10 ft min

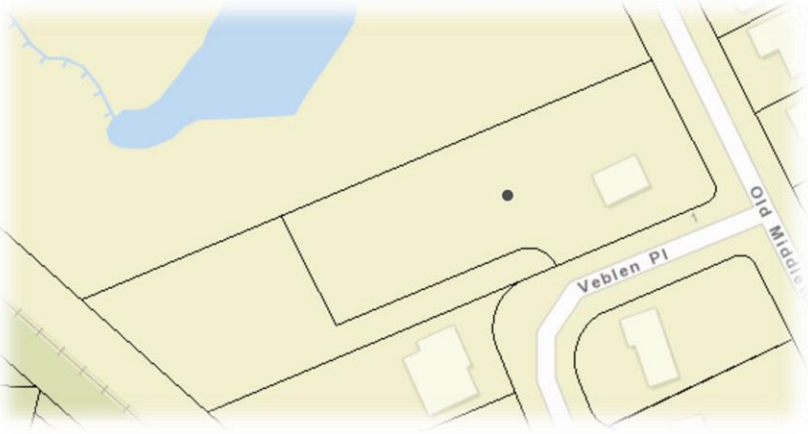
Currently 200 ft min lot
depth (100 ft per lot)

Proposed 160 ft min lot
depth (80 ft per lot)



Lots meet basic size requirements proposed for “backyard lot” creation





Simplify small/medium-sized downtown development process



- Raises thresholds for conditional use review like other mixed-use areas
- More permitted uses to make Downtown development more predictable
- Design standards in zoning code continue to apply, processes for review by Urban Design Commission remain



Permitted Uses



- Allowed “by right”
- Reviewed administratively to make sure all ordinances are met
- Landmarks Commission / Urban Design Commission review when relevant

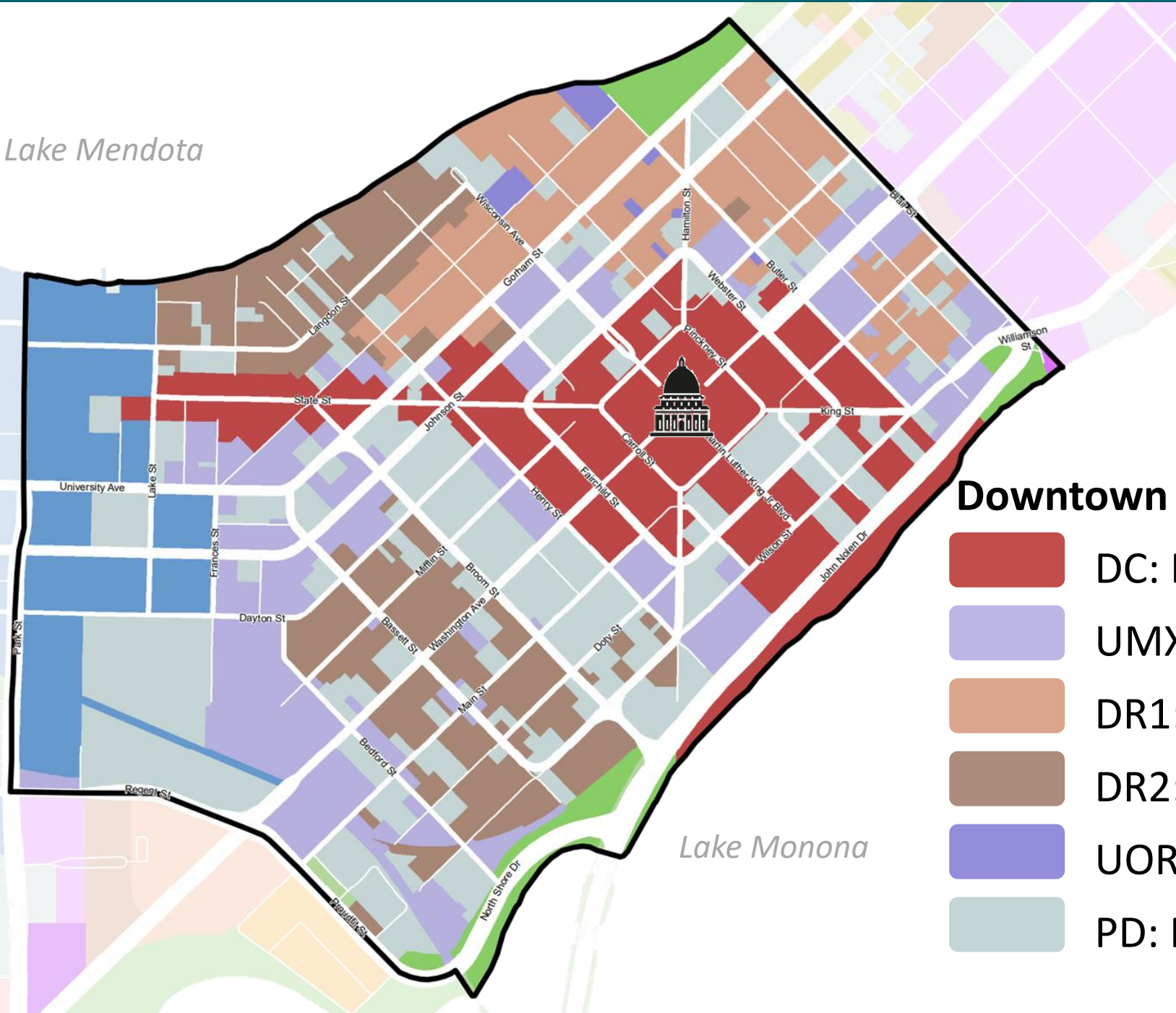
Conditional Uses



- Allowed when standards are met
- Reviewed by Plan Commission with Public Hearing
- Reviewed administratively to make sure ordinances and special conditions of approval are met



Lake Mendota

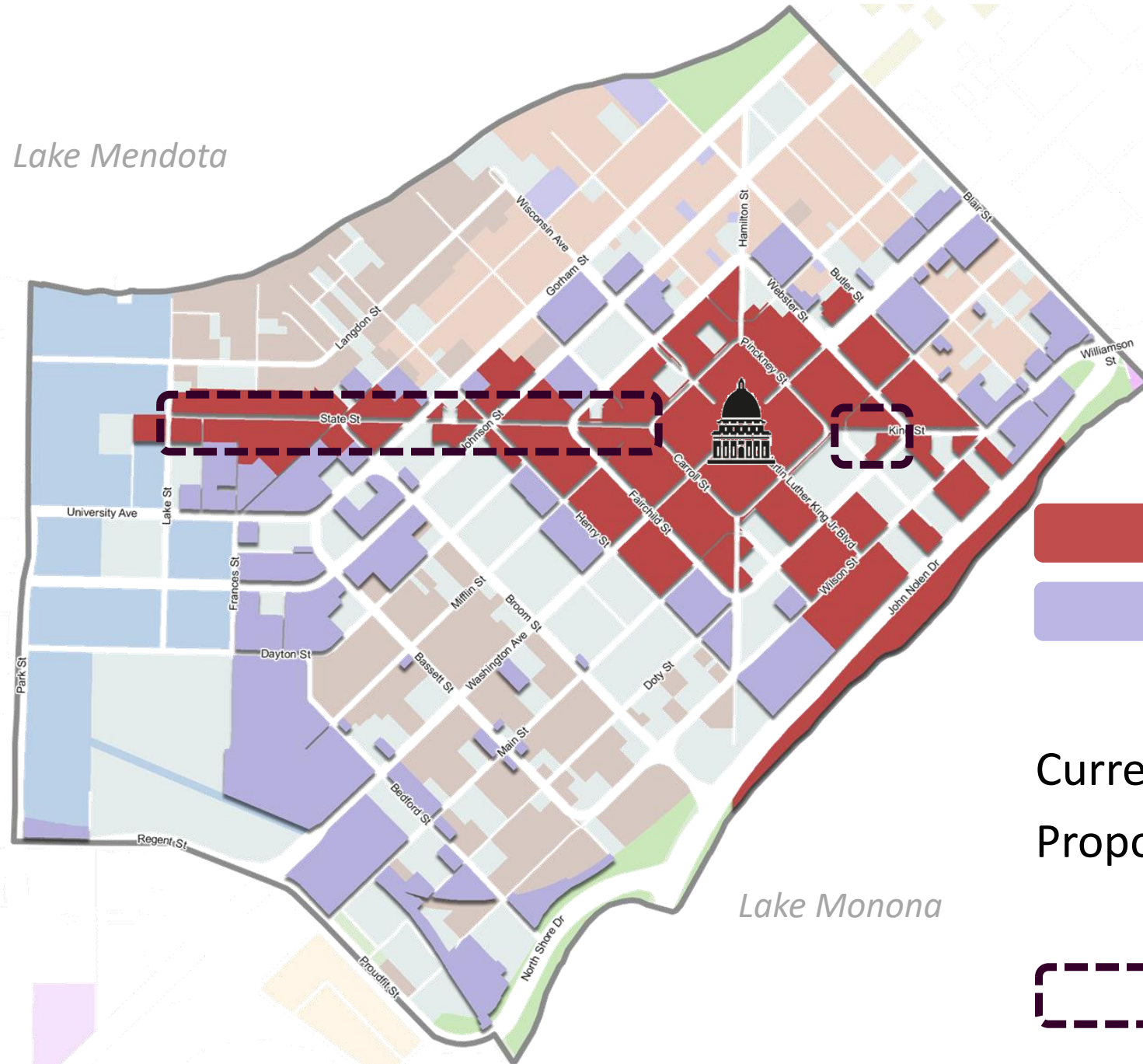


Downtown Zoning Districts

-  DC: Downtown Core
-  UMX: Urban Mixed-Use
-  DR1: Downtown Residential 1
-  DR2: Downtown Residential 2
-  UOR: Urban Office Residential
-  PD: Planned Development



Lake Mendota



- DC: Downtown Core
- UMX: Urban Mixed-Use

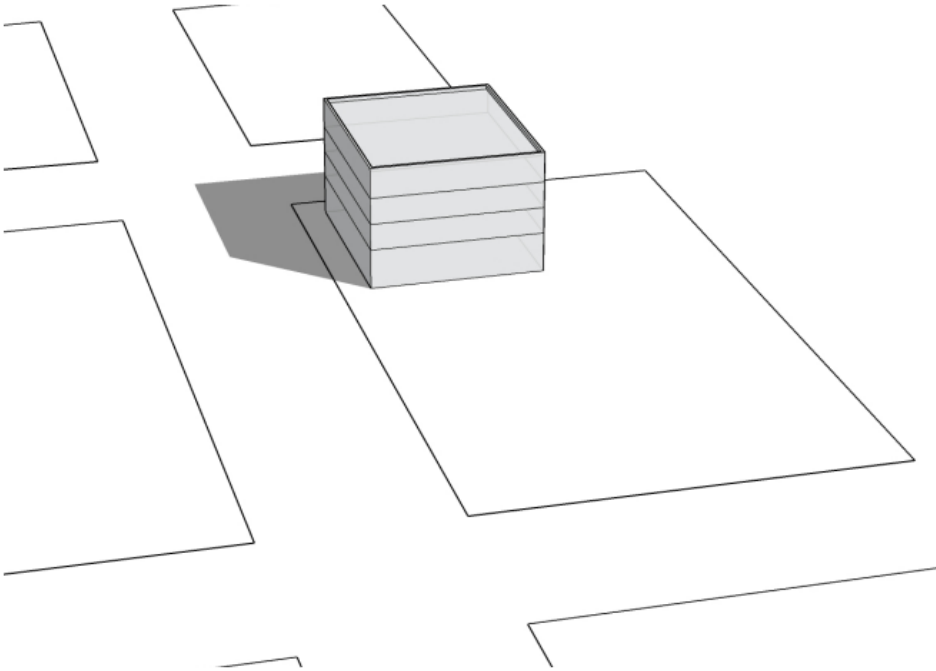
Current threshold: >4 stories, 20K sq ft

Proposed threshold: >6 stories

State/King Exception

Current max size/height as permitted use:

- 20,000 sq ft total
- 4 stories



Example building mass that could be a permitted use in UMX zone today.

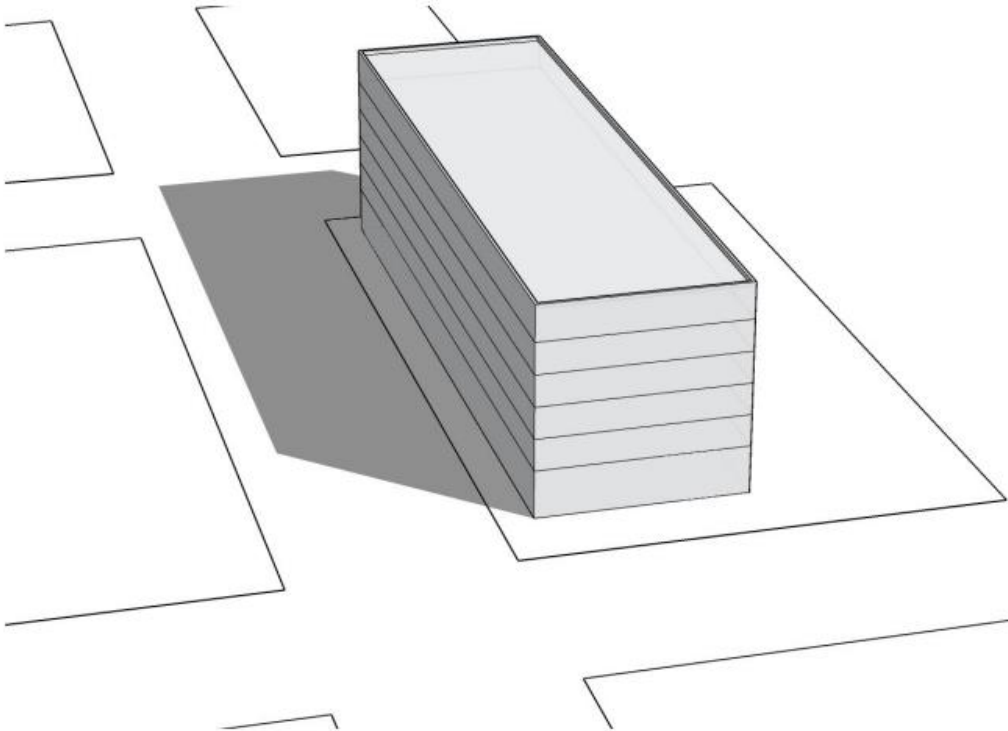


520 E Washington Ave. is a real-world example of a building below this threshold.



Proposed max height as permitted use:

- 6 stories



Example building mass that could be a permitted use in DC & UMX with this change.

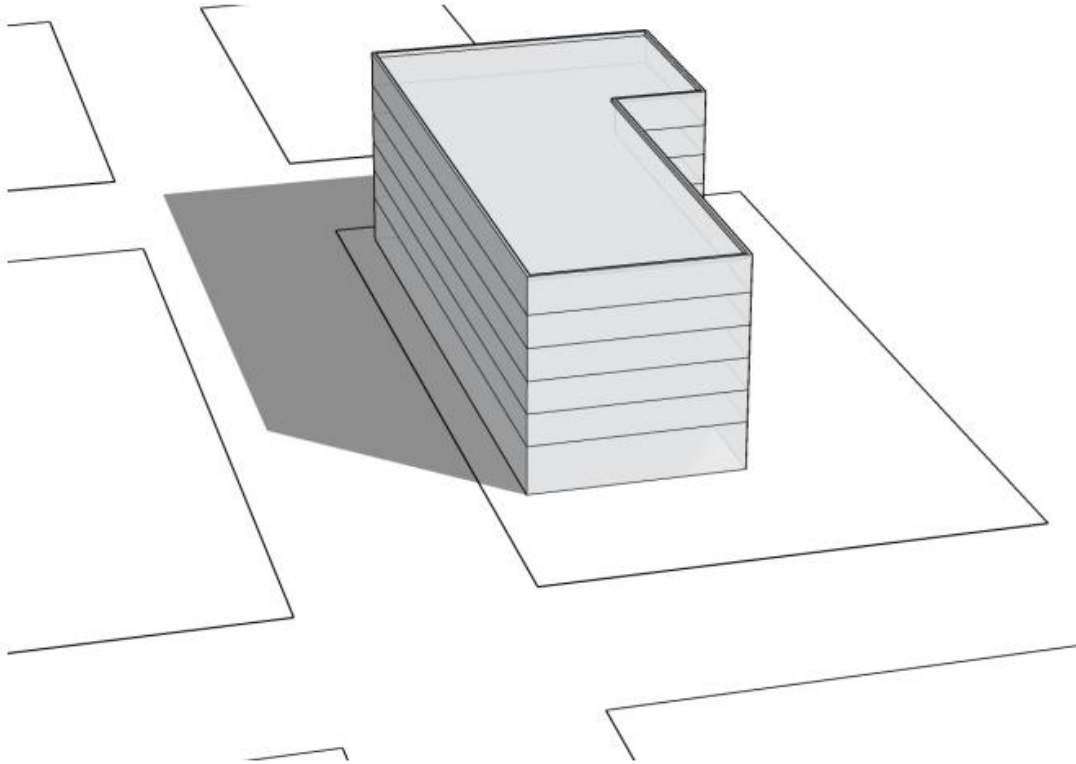


316 E Wilson St. is a real-world example of a building that this change would enable as a permitted use.



Proposed max height as permitted use:

- 6 stories



Example building mass that could be a permitted use in DC & UMX with this change.



27 N Webster St. is a real-world example of a building that this change would enable as a permitted use.

Conditional Use Thresholds Outside of Downtown



8 stories

- East Towne
- West Towne
- Oscar Mayer



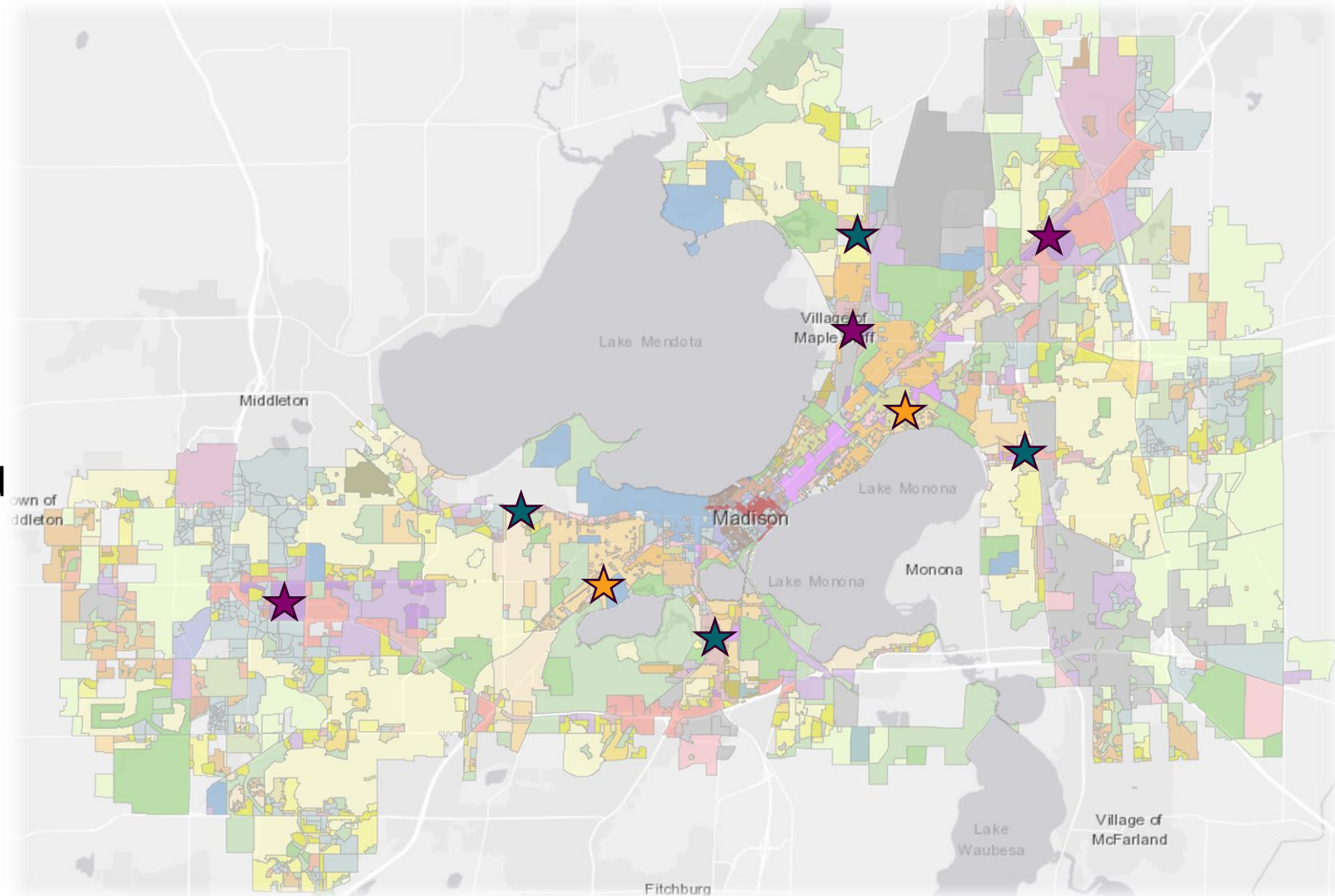
6 stories

- Northport Dr.
- Cottage Grove Rd
- S Park St
- University Ave



4 stories

- Atwood Ave
- Monroe St





Based on recent development activity, Conditional Use review still likely for most (re)development in DC & UMX zones.

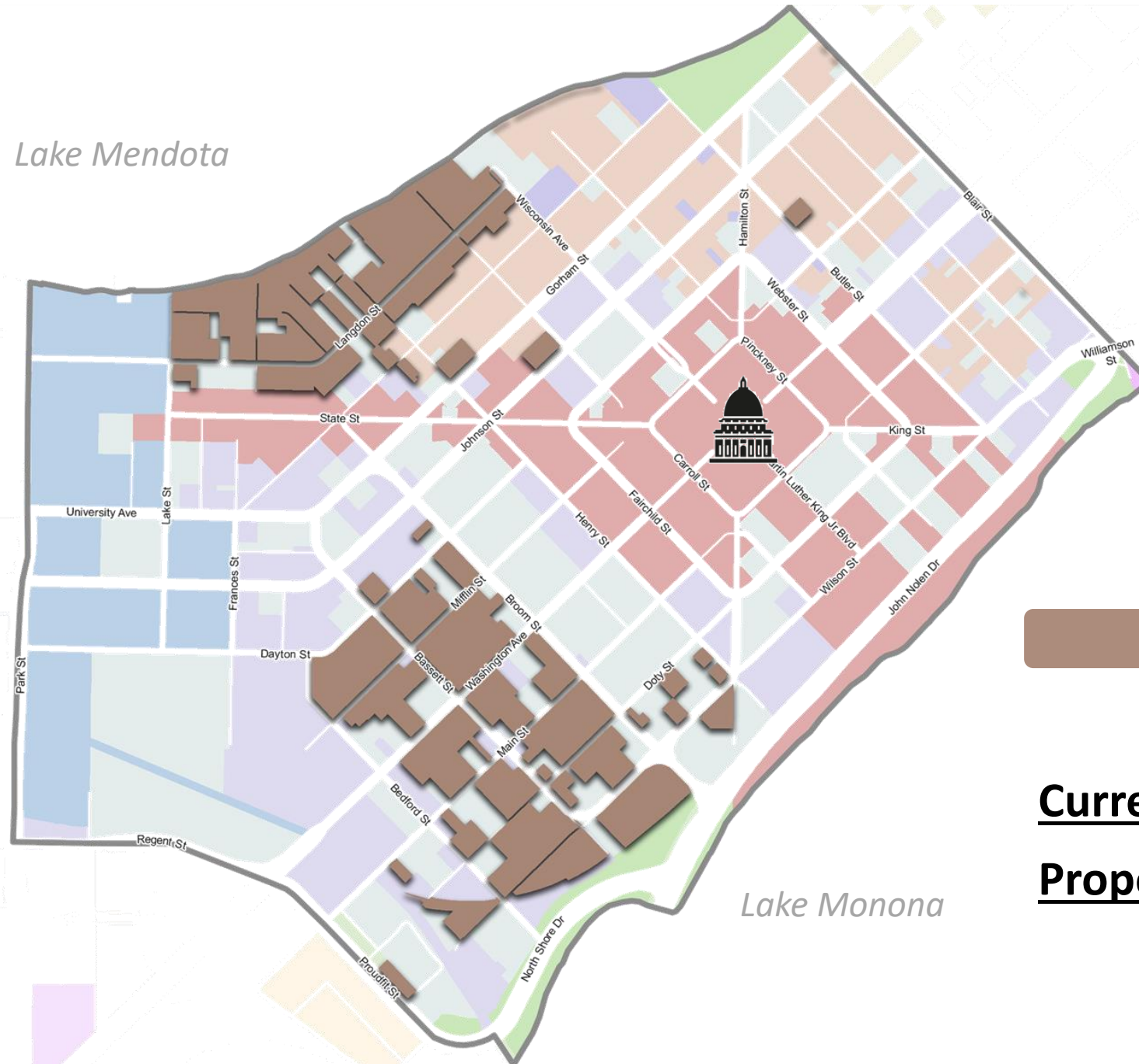




Proposed threshold: >12 housing units



Lake Mendota



Lake Monona



DR2: Downtown Residential 2

Current threshold: >8 housing units

Proposed threshold: >36 housing units



Next Steps



Housing Policy Committee

Monday, June 26, 4:30 pm

(In Person - Madison Municipal Building Rm 215)

Community Information Meeting

Wednesday, July 2, 6:00 pm

(Virtual – Zoom)

Plan Commission

Monday, July 7, 5:30 pm

(Virtual – Zoom)

Common Council

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30 pm

(Hybrid – City County Building Rm 201 or Zoom)

Questions & Discussion

Housing Policy Committee, June 26, 2025

