



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Ash Kulak, Deputy Administrator/Deputy Attorney

Date: November 27, 2024; revised December 6, 2024

Re: Ordinance 2024-27 - To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" Re: The Establishment of the Advisory Transportation Commission

Synopsis

This ordinance amends Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code (Administration and Personnel) to remove the Traffic Commission, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission, and Parking Commission and establish a new nine-member Advisory Transportation Commission. The Advisory Transportation Commission will make recommendations on relevant transportation and parking sections of the Bloomington Municipal Code, review all transportation-related projects, and propose policies that promote safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation and parking decisions. Additionally, this ordinance amends Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code (Vehicles and Traffic) to replace references of the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission with references to the Advisory Transportation Commission.

Relevant Materials

- Ordinance 2024-27
- Current Bloomington Municipal Code Sections governing Traffic Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission, and Parking Commission
- [New Material] Proposed Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2024-27
- May 2024 Memo to Mayor from Planning and Transportation Department
- Minutes from July 8, 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission meeting
- Minutes from July 24, 2024 Traffic Commission meeting

Update for December 11 Regular Session

As noted in his comments at the December 4 Regular Session, Councilmember Ruff is proposing an amendment to this item. The amendment would substitute language in alignment with the advisory nature of the commission and clarify the ATC's role in reviewing and making recommendations to the Council specifically within the Traffic Calming and Greenways Program (TCGP). The amendment does not make substantive amendments to the TCGP guidelines and contemplates that such changes would be needed in the future, in collaboration with Planning & Transportation.

Council staff is also aware that additional possible amendments to this legislation are forthcoming and will be released in a packet addendum early next week.



Summary

Ordinance 2024-27 would dissolve three traffic-related commissions (Traffic Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission, and Parking Commission) and create one Advisory Transportation Commission (ATC) in their stead. This proposal comes forward after several months of discussions with the Council at the [October 15, 2024 Special Committee on Council Processes Meeting](#), as well as the [November 13 Consensus Building Activity](#).

The proposal remains largely unchanged since its initial presentation on November 13th, with two revisions to the appointment section: it now clarifies that current City employees are not eligible to serve on the ATC and requires the Council for Community Accessibility to submit at least three nominees for the mayor's consideration for appointment.

The Planning and Transportation Department's [Memo to the Mayor from May 2024](#) explains the purpose of consolidating these three commissions into one, including the goal to reduce traffic deaths and serious injuries on the City's roadways to zero by the Year 2039, as adopted by [Resolution 2024-07](#).

During the November 13 Consensus Building Activity Meeting, Planning Services Manager Ryan Robling gave a brief presentation to the Council on the reasoning behind this change. Notably, Robling notes the challenges with the current structure of having multiple City commissions with overlapping duties, a lack of coordinated decision-making, and difficulty for the public to understand which entity to go to for their needs. Consolidating these three commissions into one is also consistent with [Recommendation 2 of the 2022 Novak report](#) that assessed and reviewed the City's Boards and Commissions.

The new proposed code provisions governing the ATC specify its purpose, the appointment structure and terms, its powers and duties, procedure and scheduling, and staffing.

Purpose (proposed Section 2.12.070(1)): The purpose of the new ATC is to provide a comprehensive framework with clearly identified tasks and responsibilities for helping the City achieve its transportation goals. In addition, the ATC will provide recommendations and guidance to the Mayor and Council, and it will act as a steering committee for future transportation studies and grant programs.

Appointments and Terms (proposed Section 2.12.070(2) and (3)): The proposed appointment and term structure of the new ATC is designed to address issues with equity in the current three-commission structure with varying membership requirements and appointing entities involved in the process.



Powers and Duties (proposed Section 2.12.070(4)): The new ATC will be responsible for reviewing all transportation projects, as well as reviewing changes to relevant Bloomington Municipal Code sections, especially relevant sections from [Title 15 \(Vehicles and Traffic\)](#) and [Title 12 \(Streets, Sidewalks, and Storm Sewers\)](#), and determining whether those proposed changes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, best practices, sustainable design, equitable access, community-based solutions, and adequate public input. The new ATC will also be heavily involved with transportation studies, activities, programs, and projects, as well as education activities on transportation safety, serving additionally as a forum for the public on transportation-related matters. The ATC will be responsible for making recommendations on public parking policy and applying for city appropriations and grants when necessary.

Procedure and Scheduling (proposed Section 2.12.070(5)): The new ATC will be responsible for establishing its own rules and procedures under this section.

Staffing (proposed Section 2.12.070(6)): The new ATC will be staffed by the Engineering Department, with additional staffing by the Planning & Transportation Department when serving as a steering committee.

All three commissions discussed this proposal with Planning Services Manager Robling in meetings from this past summer. Minutes from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission (July 8, 2024) and Traffic Commission (July 24, 2024) meetings are enclosed in this packet and were also included in the [November 13 Consensus Building Activity Packet Addendum](#). Minutes from the Parking Commission ([July 25, 2024](#)) meeting at which the proposal was discussed are not yet available.

Contact

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