


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	23-452	Meeting:	October 23, 2023
	Agenda Item:	81	Roll Call:	23-1508
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 114, Division 2 of the Municipal Code regarding the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the staff recommendations and the ordinance regarding the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City Council adopted the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan on June 26, 2023. At the June 26th City Council Meeting, the City Council asked the City Manager to develop a proposal to modify the Transportation Safety Committee's membership and expand their duties in an advisory role to the City Council to provide high level and broad-based input towards the Transportation Safety Action Plan's implementation. The City Council specifically noted that a group relating to the Transportation Safety Action Plan should have transparency, have meetings open to the public, have its agenda posted publicly with meeting minutes recorded and made available to the public for inspection. An additional desire was to have the group report progress on the Action Plan to the City Council on a regular basis, potentially quarterly.
- The Transportation Safety Committee addresses many of these attributes desired by the City Council. As the Action Plan suggests, it is desirable and beneficial to receive high level and broad-based input into the implementation and support of the Transportation Safety Action Plan and to inform any outreach and community engagement efforts. Additionally, it will be beneficial to provide a regular forum for the public to provide feedback and input into the implementation and support of the Transportation Safety Action Plan.
- The current mission and duties of the Transportation Safety Committee include advising the City Council on matters relating to the safe and efficient use of all transportation modes within and immediately adjacent to the City of Des Moines and providing a public forum to hear citizen comments and requests regarding transportation matters on existing, new, or potential transportation facilities.

- The Transportation Safety Committee’s established composition, mission, and duties position it well to provide City staff high level and broad-based input into the implementation and support of the Transportation Safety Action Plan and any outreach and community engagement efforts.
- Therefore, the following revisions to the Municipal Code related to the Transportation Safety Committee (Committee) are being proposed.
 1. Revise the duties of the Committee to discuss the implementation and support of the City’s Transportation Safety Action Plan including any outreach and community engagement plans at two (2) regular meetings per year.

These meetings would not preclude or replace the current Committee reviews of proposed transportation project designs that will likely relate to or address transportation safety issues that are identified on the High Injury Network as part of the Transportation Safety Action Plan. The progress reports presented at these meetings will be included in the meeting summaries and provided to the City Council for their information.

2. Expand the membership of the committee to include representatives from the Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The inclusion of representatives from these two (2) organizations would bring to the Committee a needed and beneficial voice on matters that will come before the Committee, especially those items that promote active transportation. It will impact the relationship between transportation and health, relate directly to the state routes within Des Moines, and/or may be impacted by or might impact state-wide practices to promote active transportation and safety. Many actions of the plan will apply the Safe System Approach, being promoted by IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, which has focus areas of Post-Crash Care, Safer People, Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles and Safer Speeds. These additional members would be expected to attend all meetings of the committee.

3. Upon review of the current provisions in the Municipal Code pertaining to the Transportation Safety Committee, several provisions were found to need clarification and revision to be consistent with similar provisions specified for other city boards, committees, and commissions and to reflect current organizational names to provide greater clarity. The additional changes include:
 - Changing the reference to the Des Moines Bicycle Collective to their current name, Des Moines Street Collective, which has been in use since 2018.
 - Adding clarifying text that the committee member who must be a licensed professional engineer is licensed by the state of Iowa.
 - Re-instituting term limits for members appointed by the City Council to be consistent with other City boards, committees, and commissions.
 - Clarifying and explicitly stating the quorum needed for the committee to conduct its business being stated as “Quorum shall be a majority of the appointed members at the time of the meeting; however, quorum shall not be fewer than five (5) members.”

- Adding language consistent to other boards, committees, and commissions to indicate city staff support representatives. The primary staff support for the Transportation Safety Committee shall be provided by the city traffic engineer or their designee, and additional staff support shall be provided by a member of the Des Moines Police Department. It is expected that the supporting staff representatives will attend each meeting of the Committee.

The following revisions to the Municipal Code will place these changes into effect.

Sec. 114-241. Created; composition; appointment; terms.

- (b) The transportation safety committee shall consist of ~~ten~~ twelve voting members. Eight of the members shall be appointed by the city council. One member shall be appointed by each council member with two members appointed by the mayor. The two members ~~nominated~~ appointed by the mayor shall consist of a Des Moines ~~Bicycle Street~~ Collective Board Member, or similarly focused organization, and a state of Iowa licensed professional engineer with transportation experience. One member shall be appointed by the superintendent of the Des Moines Independent Community School District to represent the interest of the schools citywide. One member shall be a Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority staff member appointed by the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority to represent the interest of transit citywide. One member shall be appointed by the executive director of the Polk County Health Department to represent the perspective and issues involving transportation and health. One member shall be an Iowa Department of Transportation staff member appointed by the Iowa Department of Transportation District One Engineer to provide input and insights relative to state routes within Des Moines as well as other matters that may be impacted by or might impact state-wide practices to promote active transportation and safety.
- (d) Notwithstanding section 2-1059 regarding term limits, only the members of the transportation safety committee representing the Des Moines Independent Community School District, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority, the Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Transportation may be reappointed for a third or subsequent consecutive term appointed and serve more than two (2) full terms.
- (e) ~~A majority of the members serving on the committee shall constitute a quorum. Quorum shall be a majority of the members at the time of the meeting; however, quorum shall not be fewer than five members.~~
- (f) Primary staff support for the transportation safety committee shall be provided by the city traffic engineer or a designee. Additional staff support shall be provided by a member of the Des Moines Police Department.

Sec. 114-242. Duties.

The transportation safety committee shall advise the city council on matters relating to the safe and efficient use of all transportation modes within ~~and immediately adjacent to~~ the City of Des Moines. These transportation modes include but are not limited to motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrian modes used as part of the transportation system. The transportation system includes, but is not limited to, streets, sidewalks, and related transportation facilities in the public rights-of-way.

The transportation safety committee shall advise the city council on all elements of the City of Des Moines transportation network including all council-approved plans related to transportation. The transportation safety committee shall, as it determines necessary, provide a public forum to hear citizen comments and requests regarding transportation matters on existing, new, or potential transportation facilities.

The transportation safety committee shall have the following duties:

- (3) Discuss the implementation of the City's Transportation Safety Action Plan at two regular meetings per year. At these meetings, the Committee will receive progress updates from staff on the Transportation Safety Action Plan, and provide high level and broad-based input towards the Transportation Safety Action Plan's implementation, support and any outreach and community engagement efforts. Periodic updates will be provided by the Committee to the City Council of the progress of the Transportation Safety Action Plan.
- (4) Perform such other and further duties as the city council may from time to time place upon the committee.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 26, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0955](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and adopting the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan and commitment to a goal to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury by 2040 on streets within the City of Des Moines. Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Refer to the City Manager for recommendation on composition of an advisory group, ensuring that minutes are published and a quarterly report is provided. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.
([Council Communication No. 23-308](#))

Date: June 26, 2017

Roll Call Number: [17-1102](#) and [17-1103](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Chapter 114 of the Municipal Code regarding the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given second vote for passage. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

- (A) [Final](#) consideration of ordinance above (waiver requested by the City Traffic Engineer), requires six votes. Moved by Hensley that the rule requiring that an ordinance must be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended, that the ordinance be placed upon its final passage and that the ordinance do now pass, [#15,589](#). Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: October 10, 2023

Resolution Number: None

Action: Motion was made by Renda Barbieri-Snyder to approve the Proposed Revisions to the Municipal Code to Engage the Transportation Safety Committee in Periodic Discussions of the City's Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan; seconded by Stephanie Fleckenstein. Motion passed 5:0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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