



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

41 A

Date September 24, 2018

RECEIVE AND FILE COMMUNICATION FROM THE PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING CONNECT DOWNTOWN, MOVEDSM AND THE COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on September 6, 2018, its members voted 12-0 to recommend APPROVAL of the following City-initiated actions:

- 1. Incorporation of the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Plan.
2. Amendment to the PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow comprehensive plan, to adopt the MoveDSM Plan as an element thereto.
3. Amendment to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the MoveDSM Plan.

MOVED by to receive and file the attached communication from the Plan and Zoning Commission.

FORM APPROVED:

Glenna K. Frank
Glenna K. Frank, Assistant City Attorney

(21-2018-4.14)

Table with 5 columns: COUNCIL ACTION, YEAS, NAYS, PASS, ABSENT. Rows include COWNIE, BOESEN, COLEMAN, GATTO, GRAY, MANDELBAUM, WESTERGAARD, and TOTAL.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk



September 19, 2018

Date September 24, 2018

Agenda Item 41 A

Roll Call # _____

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Des Moines, Iowa

Members:

Communication from the City Plan and Zoning Commission advising that at their September 6, 2018 meeting, the following action was taken regarding a request from the City Engineer for review and recommendation to the City Council regarding the following: A) Incorporation of the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Plan, B) Amendment to the PlanDSM Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, to adopt the MoveDSM Plan as an element and C) Amendment to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the MoveDSM Plan.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

After public hearing, the members voted 12-0 as follows:

Commission Action:	Yes	Nays	Pass	Absent
Francis Boggus	X			
Dory Briles	X			
Chris Cutler	X			
David Courard-Hauri	X			
Jacqueline Easley	X			
Jann Freed				X
John "Jack" Hilmes	X			
Lisa Howard	X			
Carolyn Jenison				X
Greg Jones				X
William Page	X			
Mike Simonson	X			
Rocky Sposato	X			
Steve Wallace	X			
Greg Wattier	X			

APPROVAL of Part A) To incorporate the Connect Downtown study as an element of *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan, **approval** of Part B) Amendment to the *PlanDSM* -

Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan to adopt the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan as an element and **approval** of Part C) Amendments to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan.

(21-2018-4.14)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE COMMISSION

Staff recommends the following:

Part A) Approval to incorporate the Connect Downtown study as an element of *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan.

Part B) Approval of an amendment to the *PlanDSM - Creating Our Tomorrow* Comprehensive Plan to adopt the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan as an element.

Part C) Approval of amendments to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan.

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. Background:** The *PlanDSM – Creating Our Tomorrow* Comprehensive Plan was adopted on April 26, 2016. *PlanDSM* specifically recognized the paramount linkage between land use and transportation planning to develop a sustainable community. Preparation of the first Master Transportation Plan in the City's history (*MoveDSM*) was identified in the Goals and Policies of the Transportation Chapter of *PlanDSM* and was identified as near-term action step in the Implementation Chapter. Implementing recommendations of the Walkability Study for Downtown (*Connect Downtown*) was also identified in the Goals and Policies of Transportation Chapter of *PlanDSM* and was identified as near-term action step in the Implementation Chapter. Establishing the position of Complete Streets Coordinator and a directive to evaluate, refine and implement the adopted Complete Streets Policy were identified in the goals and policies of the *PlanDSM* Transportation Chapter. The Des Moines' City Council provided funding for all three of these action items as a result of the *GuideDSM* Strategic Plan process.
- 2. State and Regional Planning Influences:** The City has participated in several State and regional planning efforts that serve as background to and provide general land use and transportation planning guidance for the future.

Iowa Smart Planning Legislation

The Iowa Smart Planning Act (Iowa Code Chapter 18B) was approved in 2010. The legislation articulated 10 Iowa Smart Planning Principles to be considered when any development decision is made and recommended core elements for inclusion in Comprehensive Plans. Land Use and Transportation are two of the core elements on that list.

DART Forward 2035

DART Forward 2035 was initially adopted in 2011 and provided a long-range vision for what the Transit Authority and the transit system could become. Residents of Des Moines were active participants in the planning process which resulted in a new transit system that added service in growth areas; provided for faster travel with less wait time; offered an increased number of transfer points; and, provided additional crosstown service. Transit is a key element in planning for the future of Des Moines. The DART Forward 2035 document serves as the background for transit growth in the City. During 2016, DART provided a 5-year update to the Plan. This plan for investment in transit has resulted in:

- A 9 percent increase in ridership from 2013 to 2015;
- Opening of a new transfer station in downtown Des Moines with launch of a redesigned route network;
- Shorter wait times between trips;
- Service later on weekdays and earlier and later on weekends to better align with retail hours; and
- Additional or expanded routes to serve more places in the region.

The Tomorrow Plan

Coordinated by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, The Tomorrow Plan was a three-year planning process that included 17 cities and four counties within the greater Des Moines area. This collaborative effort aligned economic, social and environmental issues to provide for the long-term health of the region. The Tomorrow Plan focuses around four overarching goals and includes initiatives for their implementation:

- Create a resilient regional economy;
- Improve the region's environmental health and access to the outdoors;
- Further the health and well-being of all residents in the region; and,
- Increase regional cooperation and efficiency at all levels.

Mobilizing Tomorrow

Also coordinated by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, The Mobilizing Tomorrow Plan is the Long-Range Transportation Plan vision and implementation follow-up to The Tomorrow Plan regional comprehensive plan. This Plan focuses around four overarching transportation goals for the region and includes an implementation:

- Enhance multimodal transportation options.
- Manage and optimize transportation infrastructure and services.
- Improve the region's environmental health.
- Further the health, safety and well-being of all residents in the region.

PlanDSM - Creating Our Tomorrow

PlanDSM is the City of Des Moines' Comprehensive Plan for how it will grow through the year 2040. *PlanDSM* consists of a vision statement and values that will guide Des Moines into the future; goals and policies for eight different Plan elements (including Land Use and Transportation); an implementation chapter describing how the Plan can be realized; and a Future Land Use Map.

Transportation Goals from *PlanDSM* include:

- Develop a complete multi-modal transportation network for pedestrians, bikes, transit and automobiles.
- Develop updated street design standards that allow for and balance the needs of all forms of transportation.
- Provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles through walking as primary mode of transportation.
- Make transit a more attractive option for all City residents.
- Enhance the bicycle network by expanding bicycle facilities that are safe, comfortable and easily accessible.
- Ensure freight facilities continue to meet the needs of the local economy while being sensitive to impacts on surrounding land uses.
- Ensure the Des Moines International Airport continues to meet the needs of the local economy.
- Plan for future changes in transportation demand, technology and innovation.

Connect Downtown

The Connect Downtown study was received and filed by the City Council in December of 2017 (see attachment). Connect Downtown includes recommendations for modifications to the downtown street network to make it more welcoming for walking and biking. The City Council referred the Connect Downtown study to the Plan and Zoning Commission for consideration as an element of *PlanDSM*. Because of the ongoing *MoveDSM* process and the fact that the Connect Downtown Study provides the detail of the Downtown street network for *MoveDSM*, staff believes that the Connect Downtown Study should be incorporated as a chapter or element of the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan. Then staff believes the entirety of *MoveDSM* should be considered as an element of *PlanDSM*.

3. **Project Funding:** In December of 2016, the City Council appropriated \$350,000 funding for completion of a Transportation Master Plan (*MoveDSM*). The City Council also authorized the hiring of a Transportation Planner to focus on implementation of complete streets initiatives City-wide.
4. **Plan Process:** *MoveDSM* (see attachment) was broken into phases emphasizing extensive public outreach to allow City residents to provide continuous community input into Plan development:
 - Evaluate the Streets We Have phase involved open houses, pop-up meetings and on-line surveys along with mapping activities to learn about the existing system.

- *Design the Ones We Want* phase gives explanation of a new approach to thinking about the streets to ensure that they are comfortable and safe for all. Input from the community and stakeholders along with the future land use plan provided the basis for the typologies in the Plan.
- *Analyze Our Desired Network* phase was the process that involved travel demand modeling provided by the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization in order to test the performance of the network.
- *Implement Our Future Network* phase provides the map to carry out the Plan by providing cost estimates and priorities for the plan network along with other strategies for policy changes to keep the Plan moving forward. This includes the proposed modifications to the previous City Council adopted Complete Streets Policy.

5. Plan Organization: *MoveDSM* is organized into three sections: DSM Today, DSM Tomorrow, and Moving Forward. The latter is an implementation chapter.

This implementation element identifies short term (by 2025) and long term (by 2040) high priority actions that translate the vision of *MoveDSM* into action. It provides methodology for prioritization of the City's investment and calls for an update to the Complete Streets Policy to align with *MoveDSM*.

The proposed to the Complete Streets Policy (see attachment):

- Explicitly states the need to prioritize projects in environmental justice areas.
- Instructs the City to approach every city, state, and federally-funded transportation project, as well as private development projects that impact the public right-of-way, as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users.
- Designates the Transportation Safety Committee as the body responsible for reviewing projects to ensure they comply with *MoveDSM*.
- Details performance measures to be evaluated each year and published in a publicly available annual report.

6. Plan Preparation: *MoveDSM* has been prepared by Traffic Engineering staff and project management consultant Sam Schwartz, under the guidance of the *MoveDSM* Steering Committee.

Members of the *MoveDSM* Steering Committee who were appointed by the Mayor, in consultation with the City Council and City Manager are as follows:

T. M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor
 Joe Gatto, City Council
 Scott Sanders, City Manager
 Tom Ahart, Superintendent, DMPS
 Todd Ashby, Executive Director, DMAMPO
 Pam Carmichael, Executive Director, HOME, Inc.

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George Davis, Park & Recreation Board
Meg Fitz, Senior VP, Greater Des Moines Partnership
Larry James, Jr., Faegre, Baker Daniels, ULI, Connect Downtown
Greg Jones, Plan & Zoning Commission
Jeremy Lewis, Des Moines Bicycle Collective
Colleen MacRae, Urban Design Review Board
Frank Owens, Neighborhood Revitalization Board
Mel Pins, Chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment
Elizabeth Presutti, General Manager, DART
Rick Tollakson, President & CEO, Hubbell Realty
Carl Voss, Transportation Safety Committee

7. **Plan Adoption:** Pursuant to City Code Chapter 82, Article III of the City Code, adoption of the Comprehensive Plan or any substantial amendment thereof (i.e. *MoveDSM*), requires at least one public hearing with published notice. The adoption of the amendment requires affirmative vote by not less than two-thirds of the members of the Commission present at the time of the vote. After adoption of the plan or amendment by the Commission, a copy of the amendment, together with the report and recommendation of the Commission, shall be forwarded to the City Council, and the Council may approve the amendment. When the plan or any modification or amendment receives the approval of the Council, the plan shall constitute the official City plan. This consideration would adopt the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan as an element of *PlanDSM*.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

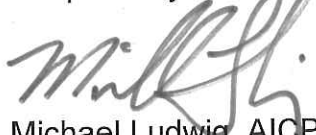
Jacqueline Easley asked if anyone was present to speak on this item. None were present or requested to speak.

COMMISSION ACTION:

David Courard-Hauri made a motion for **approval** of Part A) To incorporate the Connect Downtown study as an element of *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan, **approval** of Part B) Amendment to the *PlanDSM - Creating Our Tomorrow* Comprehensive Plan to adopt the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan as an element and **approval** of Part C) Amendments to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the *MoveDSM* Master Transportation Plan.

Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Ludwig, AICP
Planning Administrator

MGL:tjh
Attachments