

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-047	Meeting:	February 5, 2024
	Agenda Item:	36	Roll Call:	24-0201
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

ORDINANCES - SECOND CONSIDERATION: 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 with respect to expanding the membership of the Transportation Safety and the ordinance regarding the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On October 24, 2023, under Roll Call No. 23-1508, City Council moved the first reading of an Ordinance to amend the Municipal Code, amending Sections 114-241 and 114-242 relating to the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee, and directed the City Manager to add a seat for a new member to represent the mobility challenged community for the second reading of the ordinance. During the Council meeting, it was suggested that an individual from the City's Access Advisory Board could be considered for the new 13th member of the Transportation Safety Committee.
- City staff met with the City's Access Advisory Board during their meeting on November 15, 2023, to discuss the potential engagement of the Board with the Transportation Safety Committee on topics related to the City's Transportation Safety Plans. Two (2) basic options were discussed:
 - The first option was to have a member of the Board appointed to also serve as a voting member on the Transportation Safety Committee.
 - The second option was for the Board to either meet periodically with the Safety Committee or receive updates from City staff on the Transportation Safety Action Plan either on a regular basis, as needed, or at the request of either the Board or Committee.
- After discussion with City staff at the November 15, 2023, Access Advisory Board meeting, the Access Advisory Board decided to defer the matter to their January 17, 2024, Board meeting.

- The Access Advisory Board met on January 17, 2024. Discussion was held between the Board members present and City staff regarding the two (2) basic options for the engagement with the Transportation Safety Committee. However, since a quorum of the Board was not present, the matter was deferred again to their February 21, 2024 meeting, and the Board did not offer a preference on either engagement option.
- From the discussions with the Access Advisory Board, City staff have concluded that the Board is interested in being engaged in some manner on the topic of transportation safety. However, it is uncertain when the Board might be able to identify a preference due to issues related to its members being able to attend both the Board's meetings and to attend the meetings of the Transportation Safety Committee.
- Additionally, City staff have engaged in discussions with the Iowa Division of the Blind concerning mobility challenges related to traffic signals in downtown Des Moines. Following these talks, City staff suggests the importance of identifying a representative from a professional entity or an individual specializing in mobility orientation, such as the Division of the Blind or a certified orientation and mobility specialist (<https://www.acvrep.org/certifications/coms>) be sought to serve on the Transportation Safety Committee. This approach aims to enrich conversations about transportation safety by incorporating a more comprehensive and informed perspective from someone trained to address mobility issues.
- City staff recommend moving forward with revising the Transportation Safety Committee's duties to incorporate implementation and support of the Transportation Safety Action Plan, as well as to include representatives from the Polk County Health Department and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) as new 11th and 12th members of the Transportation Safety Committee.
- City staff will continue to work on identifying a 13th member to represent the mobility challenged community.
- 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 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 posted on the Committee’s web page on the City’s website.

2. Expand the membership of the committee to include representatives from the Polk County Health Department and 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, 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 “Any five members shall constitute a quorum.”

- 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.
- Adding language under the duties of the Transportation Safety Committee to receive progress reports from City staff on the City's Transportation Safety Action Plan and for City staff to provide periodic updates on the topic to the City Council as well as other boards, commissions, and committees of the City.
- 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. Any five members shall constitute a quorum.~~
- (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 City staff to the City Council of the progress of the Transportation Safety Action Plan as well as to other boards, commissions, or committees of the City.
- (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: October 23, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1508](#)

Action: [Amending](#) Chapter 114, Division 2 of the Municipal Code regarding the duties and member composition of the Transportation Safety Committee. ([Council Communication No. 23- 452](#)) Moved by Voss that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Direct the Legal Department to add a seat for a member that is mobility challenged for the second reading of the ordinance. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 6-0.

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 (6) votes. Moved by Hensley that the rule requiring that an ordinance must be considered and voted on for passage at two (2) 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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