

ORDINANCE 2025-04

**TO AMEND TITLE 2 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE
ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL"**

Re: The Establishment of the Transportation Commission

- WHEREAS, in April of 2024, the City adopted Resolution 2024-07 establishing the goal of reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries on the City's roadways to zero in the city by the Year 2039; and
- WHEREAS, in January 2018, the Bloomington Common Council passed Resolution 18-01, adopting the City's Comprehensive Plan, which serves as the long-range vision for the community and upon which future transportation and land use decisions are predicated; and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan outlines broad goals, policies, and programs to promote the health and safety of the city's residents, promote environmentally sustainable practices, encourage public engagement, and strengthen the economic well-being of the community; and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Policy 1.6.1 states, "foster inclusive and representative engagement to steer and direct development processes toward community benefit." (Comprehensive Plan, p. 29); and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan outlines transportation as a basic need stating that "rights of way are the foundation of the transportation systems and must accommodate the diverse needs of the population, from a child walking to school to a delivery truck taking products to a local restaurant;" (Comprehensive Plan, p. 67) and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.1 states, "increase sustainability: improve the sustainability of the transportation system" (Comprehensive Plan, p. 74); and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.4 states, "prioritize non-automotive modes: continue to integrate all modes into the transportation network and to prioritize bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and other non-automotive modes to make our network equally accessible, safe, and efficient for all users" (Comprehensive Plan, p. 75); and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.6 states, "optimize public space for parking: plan and develop parking for cars and bicycles with a focus on efficiency and equity" (Comprehensive Plan, p. 75); and
- WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Goal 6.8.1 states, "involve people with disabilities in decision-making. Establish a transparent, equitable public process that include people with low vision, mobility challenges, and other disabilities in the full range of transportation decisions from design to operations." (Comprehensive Plan, p. 75); and
- WHEREAS, in March 2021, the Bloomington Common Council passed Resolution 21-08, adopting the City's Climate Action Plan which is intended to guide City activities and funding priorities for climate change mitigation, specifically reducing local greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing resilience to the local impacts of climate change; and
- WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan's Transportation and Land Use chapter establishes Goal TL 1 to "[d]ecrease on-road vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 8% of 2018 values" by 2030 and includes 49 implementation actions organized under nine strategies to achieve this goal (Climate Action Plan pp. 17-28); and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan Action TL1-A-1 states, “Update the City's Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan to incorporate reductions in carbon emissions and vehicle miles traveled, improved bicycle, pedestrian and transit service standards, and a policy requiring project evaluation to include criteria on climate, equity, economic benefit, health, safety, and cost effectiveness.” (Climate Action Plan, p. 20); and

WHEREAS, In June 2020, the Bloomington Common Council passed Resolution 20-08, adopting the City’s Transportation Demand Management Program Plan which is intended to guide City activities to efficiently manage parking, including through pricing of public parking, and to utilize transportation management strategies to advance the City’s transportation goals related to pedestrian, bicyclist, public transit, and other non-automotive modes; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Demand Management Program Plan contains recommended transportation demand management strategies which fall into nine broad categories that include: technology accelerators; financial incentives; travel time incentives; marketing & education; mode of transportation; departure time; route; trip reduction; and location/design; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Parking Commission established by resolution a Comprehensive Parking Policy in 2022 (Resolution 22-07) to further develop the parking policy directives of the Comprehensive Plan, outlining six core tenets to guide its parking policy efforts: reduce excess vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through [parking] pricing; reduce excess VMT through communications; prioritize modes other than automobiles; prioritize users in hardship; pursue a parking system that pays for itself; and pursue transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Commission, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission, and the Parking Commission in their current design have faced challenges in delivering impactful transportation-related recommendations to common council and appropriate city officials; and

WHEREAS, a transportation-related policy oversight body is necessary to ensure that transportation projects are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other applicable city plans, are consistent with the best practices for eliminating all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries within the city, are consistent with promoting a more sustainable transportation system and equitable access to all transportation facility users, and have provided for community-based solutions and allowed for adequate public input; and

WHEREAS, such a transportation-related policy oversight body should both represent public stakeholders and serve as a space for collaboration among city departments with duties related to transportation, including the Department of Public Works (especially regarding parking facilities), the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (especially regarding Transportation Demand Management and parking pricing), the Department of Planning & Transportation, and the Department of Engineering;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Section 2.12.070, entitled “Traffic commission” shall be repealed and replaced.

Delete

- (1) Purpose—Duties. It shall be the duty of the commission, and to this end it shall have the authority within the limits of the funds at its disposal, to coordinate traffic activities, to carry on educational activities in traffic matters, to supervise

the preparation and publication of traffic reports, to receive complaints having to do with traffic matters, and to recommend to the common council and to appropriate city officials ways and means for improving traffic conditions and the administration and enforcement of traffic regulations.

- (2) Appointments. The commission shall consist of the following nine members: a designee of the director of engineering, a designee of the director of public works, a designee of the chief of police and six additional members who shall be appointed by the common council. All terms shall be for two years.
- (3) Qualifications. Each common council appointee shall be a resident of the city with preference being given so that each councilmanic district is represented.
- (4) Meetings. Meetings will be held monthly.
- (5) Procedure. The commission shall establish its own rules of operating procedure which may be amended from time to time by a majority vote.

Add

Section 2.12.070, entitled "Transportation Commission."

- (1) Purpose. The Transportation Commission (hereinafter referred to as "commission") is established with the explicit purpose of guiding the city's transportation endeavors through a comprehensive framework which seeks to provide adequate and safe access to all right-of-way users while prioritizing non-automotive modes and sustainability. The commission shall provide recommendations and guidance to the mayor and common council in the pursuit of developing and implementing a city-wide policy to eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and passengers; shall promote sustainable transportation; shall foster equitable access; and shall promote community-centric design. The commission shall also serve as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies and grant programs.
- (2) Appointments: The commission shall consist of nine members, none of whom may hold any employment, elected, or appointed position with the City, unless specifically permitted as outlined in this section:
 - (a) One member appointed by the mayor shall be a member from the council for community accessibility or a designated representative. The council for community accessibility shall submit a list of at least three names to the mayor for consideration;
 - (b) One member appointed by the public transportation corporation board of directors shall be a member or a designated representative, including from among staff of the corporation;
 - (c) One member appointed by the plan commission shall be a member or a designated representative;
 - (d) One member appointed by the board of public works shall be a member or a designated representative;
 - (e) One member appointed by the common council shall be from among its membership;
 - (f) Two members shall be appointed by the council, and shall be residents living within city limits who have experience using forms of travel other than personal motor vehicles as their primary method of transportation;
 - (g) Two members shall be appointed, one by the mayor and one by the council, and shall be residents living within the city limits. Preference for appointments shall be given to board members, employees, or other formal volunteers with Monroe County Community School Corporation, especially as involved in safe routes to school, pollution reduction, and school bus utilization; and members of community organizations dedicated to serving marginalized groups, especially safety-marginalized transportation users.

- (3) Terms. Members appointed from the membership of the public transportation corporation board of directors, plan commission, board of public works, and common council shall serve a term coextensive with their terms on the body from which they were appointed or until that body appoints another at its first regular meeting of the year. Members appointed from the council for community accessibility, members who are acting as appointed representatives, and members appointed by common council who are not among its membership shall serve a two year term.
- (4) Powers and Duties. The commission's powers and duties shall include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Coordinate, supervise, and, when necessary, approve transportation-related studies, plans, consultant reports, activities, programs, and projects, including acting as a standing steering committee for future transportation related studies, plans and plans updates, and grant programs.
 - (b) Review all transportation projects, proposed changes to Title 15 - Vehicles and Traffic, relevant proposed changes to Title 12 - Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewers, and other applicable changes to the Bloomington Municipal Code to determine if the proposed change:
 - (i) is consistent with the comprehensive plan and other applicable city adopted plans;
 - (ii) is consistent with the best practices for eliminating all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries within the city;
 - (iii) is consistent with advancing a sustainable transportation system and equitable access to all transportation facility users while prioritizing non-automotive modes; and
 - (iv) has adequately conducted public engagement and considered community-centric design tied to targeted outcomes.
 - (c) Provide a forum for members of the public to submit transportation-related testimonials, inquires, and requests;
 - (d) Conduct education activities in matters related to transportation safety in an effort to both eliminate all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, and promote sustainable forms of transportation within the city;
 - (e) Make recommendations on transportation policy, including but not limited to: changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, capital planning, program implementation, or any other aspect of advancing a safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation system;
 - (f) Make recommendations on public parking policy, including but not limited to: pricing, hours of operation, addition or removal of parking supply or parking spaces, changes to city code, changes to applicable city plans, enforcement procedures, or any other aspect of parking management policy;
 - (g) Produce or oversee an annual analysis of parking asset management, including but not limited to: reporting all costs and revenues for city-owned structured parking, surface parking, metered parking, neighborhood parking zones, and other relevant city-owned parking; documenting parking utilization rates and longitudinal trends; conducting or contracting for parking data analytics; and recommending changes to the parking system necessary to advance the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and other applicable city plans;
 - (h) Request appropriations through the mayor and communicate the need for appropriations to the city council, or research and apply for grants, gifts, or other funds from public or private agencies, for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions of this section.
- (5) Procedure and Scheduling. The commission shall establish its own rules and procedures, subject to amendment by a majority vote. This shall include the ability to define its meeting schedule within the scope of the established rules and procedures.
- (6) Staff. The commission shall be primarily staffed by the engineering department. When serving as a steering committee, the commission shall be staffed by the planning and transportation department. Staff from the Department of Public

Works, the Economic and Sustainable Development Department, and other departments deemed necessary for decision-making to support the city's transportation and parking goals shall attend meetings of the Transportation Commission at the commission's request.

SECTION 2. Section 2.12.080, entitled "Bloomington Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission" shall be repealed and reserved for future use.

Delete

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of this commission is to promote and encourage bicycling, walking and running in a safe and efficient manner in the City of Bloomington for the purpose of health, recreation and transportation.
- (2) Appointments. The commission shall consist of seven members appointed in the following manner:
 - (A) The mayor shall make four appointments. Preference for two of those four appointments will be given one member from the Bloomington Bicycle Club Inc. and one member from the Bloomington Track Club Inc. The above named organizations shall submit a list of at least three names to the mayor for consideration.
 - (B) The Common Council shall make three appointments. Preference for one of those three appointments will be given to one member from the Indiana University Student Association. The above named organization shall submit a list of at least three names to the common council for consideration.
- (3) Terms. The initial terms of the members shall be staggered. All subsequent terms shall be for two years.
- (4) Removal. Members may be removed for cause by the mayor or common council. "Cause" shall include, but not be limited to, failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled or four regularly scheduled commission meetings within a twelve-month period. The commissioner shall have the right to submit in writing any extenuating circumstances to the mayor or common council before the formal decision to remove is reached. However, acceptance of extenuating circumstances puts the commissioner on notice that further excessive absenteeism will result in removal.
- (5) Meetings. The commission shall meet at times and places as agreed on by the Commission and shall advertise those meeting times and places in accordance with the law. In any event the commissioner shall meet no less than six times per calendar year.
- (6) Duties. The duties of this commission shall be as follows:
 - (A) To serve as a citizens forum for discussion and recommendation of improvement to existing facilities and planning of new projects concerning safe access for cyclists, pedestrians and runners;
 - (B) To prepare reports and recommendations to the mayor, common council, plan commission and planning and transportation department as needed, concerning the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and runners within the city;
 - (C) To foster and develop safety programs for cyclists, pedestrians and runners; and,
 - (D) To encourage the hosting of cycling, walking and running events conducted in a safe manner which will attract visitors from outside of the City.

SECTION 3. Section 2.12.110, entitled "Parking Commission" shall be repealed and reserved for future use.

Delete

- (a) Purpose. It shall be the primary purpose of the parking commission (commission), in coordination with decision-makers and other entities as is necessary or prudent:
 - (1) To develop, implement, maintain, and promote a comprehensive policy on parking that takes into account the entirety of, and furthers the objectives of, the city's comprehensive plan; and
 - (2) To coordinate parking activities, to carry on educational activities in parking matters, to supervise the preparation and publication of parking reports, to receive comments and concerns having to do with parking

matters, and to recommend to the common council and to appropriate city officials ways and means for achieving the city's comprehensive plan objectives through the administration of parking policies and the enforcement of parking regulations.

- (b) **Composition—Appointments.** The parking commission shall be composed of nine voting members. These voting members shall be composed of five members appointed by the mayor and four members appointed by the common council. Each appointing authority may also appoint a standing alternate for each of its appointees and such alternate may participate with the commission at any meeting where the regular member is disqualified or is otherwise unable to participate. All alternate members appointed hereunder shall meet all qualification requirements of the regular member for whom they serve as alternate.
- (c) **Qualifications of Voting Membership.**
 - (1) One member appointed by the mayor and one member appointed by the common council shall be a merchant owning and operating a business located at an address within the city limits;
 - (2) One member appointed by the mayor shall be a board member or an employee of a non-profit organization which operates at property that is owned or leased by the non-profit organization within the city limits;
 - (3) Four members, one appointed by the mayor and three appointed by the council, shall be residents living within the city limits;
 - (4) One member appointed by the common council shall be from among its membership; and
 - (5) One member appointed by the mayor shall be from within the planning and transportation department, engineering department, or department of public works.
- (d) **Terms.** The initial terms of three mayoral and two council citizen appointments shall expire on January 31, 2018. The terms of the remaining initial citizen appointments shall expire on January 31, 2019. Thereafter, all terms of citizen appointments shall be for two years and expire on January 31. The terms for the one mayoral appointment made from within the planning and transportation department and the one council appointment made from within the members of the council shall be for one year and expire on January 31.
- (e) **Powers and Duties.** The commission shall meet at least one time each month, unless it votes to cancel the meeting. Its powers and duties shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Accessing all data regarding the city's parking inventory, including usage, capital and operating costs, so long as the data is released in a manner consistent with exemptions from disclosure of public records set forth in Indiana Code § 5-14-3-4;
 - (2) Reviewing the performance of all meters, lots, garages, and neighborhood zones in the city's parking inventory, and reviewing the performance of all divisions of city departments devoted specifically to parking management;
 - (3) Making recommendations on parking policy, including but not limited to: pricing, hours of operation, addition or removal of parking spaces, and changes when necessary to city code, enforcement procedures, or any other aspect of parking management policy;
 - (4) Submitting an annual report of its activities and programs to the mayor and council by October of each year;
 - (5) Adopting rules and regulations for the conduct of its business; and
 - (6) Applying for appropriations through the mayor, or researching and applying for grants, gifts, or other funds from public or private agencies, for the purpose of carrying out any of the provisions of this section.
- (f) **Staff.** The commission shall be staffed by the planning and transportation department.

SECTION 4. Chapter 15, entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" shall be amended by replacing all references to "Traffic Commission," and "Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission" with references to "Transportation Commission."

SECTION 5. Section 5.58.050, entitled "Parking" shall be amended by adding the following to section (i).

Delete

The City of Bloomington Parking Commission, established by Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.12.110, and the City of Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission, established by Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.12.080, are jointly directed to take up the study of parking associated with shared-use motorized scooters within downtown Bloomington and within neighborhoods where there have been documented substantial complaints regarding shared-use motorized scooters.

The commissions are directed to produce a report which documents their findings. Said report shall be forwarded to the common council no later than March 31, 2020 for review. The common council shall take the report and its findings into consideration when deciding what additional parking restrictions may be appropriate for shared-use motorized scooters.

Add

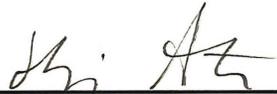
The City of Bloomington Transportation Commission, established by Bloomington Municipal Code Section 2.12.070 is directed to take up the study of parking associated with shared-use motorized scooters within downtown Bloomington and within neighborhoods where there have been documented substantial complaints regarding shared-use motorized scooters.

The Transportation Commission is directed to include a study of parking associated with shared-use motorized scooters in its annual report to the common council.

SECTION 6. If any section, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or application of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall be in effect immediately after its passage by the Common Council and approval of the Mayor, any required publication, and, as necessary, other promulgation in accordance with the law.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 05 day of February, 2025.



HOPI STOSBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST: 

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 07 day of February, 2025.



NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk,
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 13 day of February, 2025.



KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

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 Transportation Commission. The 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 policies and decisions. Additionally, this ordinance amends Title 15 of the Bloomington Municipal Code (Vehicles and Traffic) to replace references of the Traffic Commission, Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission, and Parking Commission with references to the Transportation Commission.

Note: This ordinance was amended at the February 5th Regular Session by Amendment 01 to include an additional whereas clause and clarify that City staff from departments deemed necessary for decision-making to support the City's transportation and parking goals collaborate with and attend the new Transportation Commission's meetings by request. Amendment 01 also deleted the word "demonstrated" in the qualification that a person "experience using forms of travel other than personal motor vehicles".

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Engineering, Legal, Mayor, and Planning + Transportation.