

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

June 16, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

In-person:

City Hall, 401 N. Morton St.
Common Council Chambers, Room #115

Virtual Link:

Zoom Meeting ID:
Passcode:

<https://bton.in/TCmeet>

635 944 1221
COBPT

Meeting Minutes

The first meeting of the City of Bloomington Transportation Commission was held in City Council Chambers at 401 N Morton Street in Room #115 on June 16, 2025 at 5:30 PM. A virtual room was simultaneously hosted on Zoom at the following link: <https://bton.in/TCmeet> [Zoom Meeting ID: 635 944 1221; Passcode: COBPT]. The meeting was presented by staff member Ryan Robling.

ROLL CALL

In-person: John Connell
Barbara McKinney
Stephen Volan
Brian Drummy
Lesley Davis
Mark Stosberg

Virtual: Matt Flaherty

City Staff: Ryan Robling
Iris Bull
Andrew Cibor
Adam Wason

CASES (PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.)

- ❖ Adopt [a draft for Administrative Procedures and Rules](#) to govern Commission meetings

McKinney made a motion to adopt Article 1 of the [Administrative Procedures and Rules](#) drafted by staff. Volan seconded the motion.

Before Roll Call, Volan requested a characterization of Article 1.

Robling presented a digital copy of the Administrative Procedures and Rules drafted by staff.

The motion passed 6-0.

Article 1 provisioned electronic communications and meetings as permitted in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5. Henceforth, Flaherty (who joined virtually), was permitted to participate in proceedings.

- ❖ Review of Commission's role and the historical context of its formation

Robling presented a historical overview of the social and political context for the Transportation Commission's formation. As part of the presentation, supporting staff Cibor, Bull, Robling, and Wason were introduced to the Commission and their roles were contextualized within anticipated Commission activities. Commission members introduced themselves and described their appointment. Goals, as well as the scope of powers and duties for the commission, were described and discussed.

❖ **Adopt [a draft for Administrative Procedures and Rules](#) to govern Commission meetings**

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Volan: Are members allowed to be represented by proxy members?

Robling: We will confer with legal to determine which members, if any are eligible.

Volan: What types of things and how often will the commission discuss certain topics?

Robling: Depends on several factors, and right now we are unsure.

Cibor: Staff need to consider workflow adjustments to know when to bring agenda items forward.

Volan: To whom are the Commission making recommendations?

Cibor: It depends, but ultimately recommendations are likely going to be put to City Council or staff.

Volan: Is the expectation that eventually staff will expect to take certain items to the Commission?

Robling: Yes; some inquiries from private developments may come before the Commission.

McKinney: Can we ensure that the board will be included as stakeholders to be notified when Engineering sends out public notices? Cibor affirms.

Strosberg and Volan asked clarifying questions about the intent and design of steering committee meetings. Robling clarified details.

Volan: What does staff expect will be appropriate lead time for agenda items?

Robling: Staff aim to provide an agenda and packet materials one week in advance of a meeting.

Volan: Can you define "safety first" as a principle?

Robling: Clarifies that City Council defined "safety" in terms of the elimination of fatal crashes within a 15-year period. The principle was adopted in 2024.

Volan: How will the Commission set an agenda and schedule?

Robling: Staff have drafted a schedule and set of agenda items from a backlog of issues.

As part of redirecting discussion back to a vote on the remaining articles in the Rules and Procedures draft, Bull circulated a copy of the proposed rules to commission members via email.

Robling presented Articles 2 through 5 of the proposed Rules and Procedures draft.

McKinney made a motion to accept Articles 2 through 5 as presented. Drummy seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

❖ **Future Meeting Discussion and Action on July 21, 2025 Meeting**

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Volan: Is the Commission a reactive body, or will the body be able to bring forward its own resolutions?

Robling: The current draft does provide the Commission with the ability to put forward its own resolutions.

Robling proposed commission members discuss the Election of Officers. Given lack of member participation in discussion, Volan proposed to table the agenda item to the next meeting.

Robling presented a draft of the Transportation Commission meeting schedule.

Volan moved that the Transportation Commission meet July 21, 2025 at 5:30PM. McKinney seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Volan: How do members feel about the 3rd Monday of every month?

Members confer that the 3rd Monday of the month generally works for their schedule.

Volan: Is there a reason why there is no meeting scheduled for December?

Robling: The meeting was not anticipated to be productive, and so it was pre-cancelled accordingly.

Volan: Would a member of the audience who is expected to serve as the 8th member of the Commission speak to their preference on the schedule? I'm seeing a thumbs up that the 3rd Monday of the month works for them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Rousseau (Bloomington Resident) asked a clarifying question about whether or not the Commission's adopted rules allow for the public to make comments about the rules themselves.

Robling clarified that the rules adopted stipulate that the Commission may not engage in open discourse with a member of the public, but that the Commission may take up questions presented by the public themselves. Staff may prepare the comment on behalf of a resident for Commission review. Residents may send their comments through a written form for discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

Volan clarified that the Commission would prefer to hear from residents, as well as read their prepared comments, and invited Rousseau to speak.

Rousseau expressed concern about the language in Article 1 about commission member bias being too broad. They also expressed concern that public comment be extended to 5 minutes. They also expressed concern that the processes for preparing comments may be too arduous for members of the public.

McKinney asked staff if they have a response to public comment. Robling responded that staff are open to discussion about the rules and procedures, and that the existing template was inspired by Planning Commission rules and procedures.

Volan requested that staff circulate a copy of Planning Commission rules and procedures to commission members.

Robling recognized two members online for participation in public comment.

Eric Ost praised the Commission for accepting public comment on the rules and procedures. They expressed concern for prioritizing accountability and transparency as goals. They expressed concern that the language of the rules made it unclear if the public would receive a copy of meeting minutes. They expressed concern that video recordings of the proceedings be added to the CATS archive within one day of the scheduled meeting.

Wendy Bricht expressed concern that the language of the rules and procedures are discouraging to the public. They expressed concern that the process of raising issues with the Commission is too complex or complicated. They expressed concern that 3

minutes is an insufficient allotment for public comment. They expressed concern that the Commission takes seriously the residents who are impacted by changes to local transportation.

Betty Rose Nagle expressed a perception of the Commission as similar to the federal DOGE office in terms of how both groups prioritize efficiency. They expressed a belief that efficiency is not the hallmark of efficacy; they cited the Hawthorn-Weatherstone Greenway as an example of an efficient project also being an ineffective use of funds. They expressed that the project was ideologically-focused. They critiqued the Bike and Pedestrian Commission for their representation of pedestrian interests. They made an appeal to members to hear matters related to sidewalk use.

Robling reiterated members of the public may send their comments via email to ryan.robbling@bloomington.in.gov or through a comment form that is available on the Transportation Commission website <https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/transportation-commission>

ADJOURNMENT