Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025

A meeting of the City of Bloomington Transportation Commission was held in City Council Chambers at 401 N Morton Street in Room #115 on September 15, 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.

<u>Video archives of Transportation Commission meetings are maintained by CATS.</u>
Unless otherwise noted, all times noted in the meeting minutes are a reference to the approximate time stamp of <u>the session recording</u> according to [HH:MM:SS] (hour mark, hour mark: minute mark, minute mark: second mark, second mark). Information about the video archive and other documents maintained by the Transportation Commission <u>are maintained on its dedicated website</u>, as well as <u>the City of Bloomington's OnBoard platform</u>. Residents are encouraged to submit public comments to the Transportation Commission in-person or <u>online</u>. To expedite concerns about existing transportation infrastructure, residents are also encouraged <u>to file a uReport ticket</u>.

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS SORTED BY IN ORDER OF APPOINTMENT

In-person: Rick Coppock

John Connell by proxy: Shelley Strimaitis

Stephen Volan Matt Flaherty Lesley Davis Mark Stosberg

Absent: Brian Drummy

City Staff: Ryan Robling

Iris Bull

Andrew Cibor Driss Tahir Hank Duncan Kendall Knoke

Michelle Wahl (Virtual) Adam Wason (Virtual)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ Approve meeting minutes from July 21, 2025 [00:01:45]

Stosberg made a motion to adopt meeting minutes. Flaherty seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Flaherty noted that full narrative minutes are not required for meeting documentation, especially when video recordings of a session are available. Bull acknowledged that the meeting minutes for the July session were extensive, and they remarked that future minutes may be more brief. Flaherty noted no preference in particular.

Volan noted an error in the template description for the minutes and recommended adding time codes for specific agenda items. Volan noted unique advantages of narrative minutes as guide for reviewing video documentation. Volan also noted appreciation for packet bookmarking.

Volan moved to approve July 21, 2025 meeting minutes by a voice vote. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously. [00:05:48]

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

❖ Report from Commissioner Volan [00:06:20]

Volan noted that the Commission is still working through the development of procedures that reflect the deliberative agendas of the three commissions it assumed. Volan encouraged other commissioners to ask questions and express ideas, no matter how rudimentary. Volan also apologized for the absence of CATS at the July session, noting that the work camera operators perform is valuable for the Commission, as well as the public.

* 180 Day Order Update [00:07:53]

Cibor presented a report on the implementation of two new 180 Day Orders. One Order was an extension of a previous Order for the four, all-way stop intersections along 7th St. A new Order was issued in response to Commission activity at the July meeting, where commissioners approved the installation of stops signs along two intersections: E 13th and N Woodlawn, and E 13th and N Indiana Ave. Cibor noted a desire to install the Orders before the arrival of new students for the Fall 2025 term.

Discussion:

Volan asked for clarification on how many orders are currently enforced. Cibor observed that the naming schema for Orders indexes the number of issued orders for the year, so to date there are 8 active orders. Volan asked for clarification on how

commonly Orders are issued and what a high number for the year might be. Cibor clarified that 8 Orders for a year is on the higher end of an average. Volan asked if an archive of Orders is available online. Cibor clarified that the Orders are published online by virtue of their inclusion into the Transportation Commission packets, but that he has not previously received a request to publish an archive of Orders. Volan expressed a desire to see a virtual archive of Orders developed, such that each Order was provided a unique URL, and linked on the Transportation Commission website. Cibor replied that the request would be considered. Volan also requested that the Transportation Commission report on 180 Orders foreground the date that the Orders are issued and the date they take effect, perhaps in the document headers or subject description).

Flaherty asked for an update on the City Administration's legal position on whether or not City Council will take action on transportation matters, whether or not municipal code will be changed so that matters like 180 Orders are solely the responsibilities of the City Engineer? Cibor clarified that he doesn't have any significant updates to provide at this time, but that staff may coordinate with the Legal department to provide the Commission with an update in the future if so desired. Volan noted that Commissioners would entertain the suggestion to invite Legal staff to a future meeting.

Flaherty asked for the status of a bicycle count on 7th St. Cibor noted problems with counting equipment along the corridor, but noted that he would work on coordinating with Engineering staff to provide an update. Flaherty noted an interested on evaluating whether or not the bicycle count can be used to measure an impact on usership of the protected bike lane along the corridor.

Parking Study Update [00:14:00]

Michelle Wahl from Parking Services introduced consultants Jon Martens and Lauren Ahlgrim from Walker Consultants to present preliminary survey data from an ongoing study of Bloomington parking services relative to other comparable municipalities.

Discussion:

Flaherty asked if the presentation materials were available online. Wahl clarified that they are available on the Parking Services website.¹

Flaherty asked about the plan for the report once the survey is complete. Wahl clarified that the report is intended as serve as a component to a more broadly scoped research endeavor undertaken by Parking Services staff. Following delivery of the final report, Parking Services intends to augment the findings with additional

¹ A copy of the Walker Consulting presentation slides has been uploaded to Onboard as <u>Appendix 1</u> to the <u>September 15, 2025 meeting documents</u>.

financial information. Staff then intend to provide the Transportation Commission with another survey update.

Volan asked if Commission members would be provided an opportunity to provide input on the report before it is finalized. Wahl reiterated the intent to follow up with Commission members after Parking Services receives a completed report from Walker Consulting. During this follow up, Wahl anticipated that Commissioners would be welcome to ask questions about the final report. Wahl also anticipated an additional review period where Parking Services staff and Commissioners would remediate concerns or issues and work towards mutually agreed upon recommendations that would go before City Council. Volan asked for clarification on Commissioner's ability to provide meaningful input on the report and recommendations before anything is sent to City Council. Wahl noted uncertainty about the type of input Commissioners may request.

Volan asked about the stakeholders consulted for the research contributing to the Walker Consulting report. Wahl described the stakeholders and noted that a full list could be provided on request. Volan asked if the Transportation Commission was considered as a stakeholder. Adam Wason clarified that the Commission was considered a stakeholder and would be provided an opportunity to provide meaningful input into proposed changes to the parking services infrastructure. Wason anticipated that Parking Services would return for additional discussion on this topic in November at the earliest. Volan suggested that staff consider scheduling a special session of the Commission to facilitate a discussion of the parking services study; Wason noted that they would consider the suggestion.

Volan asked study consultants if they had considered the parking services structure of universities in the towns considered for the study. Martens clarified that universities were not considered; IU parking services was included in the presentation at the request of City of Bloomington staff, but that generally they tend to review and compare municipalities to each other. Volan asked if it would be possible to change the scope of the research at this time to account for this gap in the research. Wason clarified that it was unlikely that a change of scope in the contract could be considered at this time, but that he would ask the consultants about data that may be applicable and readily available.

Coppock asked study consultants if raw data would be provided for review. Wason clarified that Parking Services staff could provide that data in the future. Volan pointed out that such data could be presented at a future special meeting.

Flaherty observed that the intent of the report is to support policy recommendations, and asked if explicit goals and values were taken into account when crafting the report and performing the study from the beginning. Wason clarified that Parking Services can provide that framework more formally as part of their reporting on the survey reporting in the future, but that in general the goal is to provide an efficient

parking system that values all users equitably and at a fair cost. Martens also clarified that the survey solicited value statements from survey participants.

Volan observed the staff report template that Transportation Commission uses to foreground goals and values as part of a proposed change or recommendation.

Cibor observed that the parking study will eventually contribute to Title 15 changes, and he noted that the staff report template will be used at that point to structure Commission discussion.

Volan recommended that Walker Consulting staff consult the 2018 parking services report produced by the Parking Commission.

12th & Monroe Quick Build Project [00:49:50]

Staff report presented by Hank Duncan (Planning and Transportation).

Discussion:

Davis asked for a clarification about the unique functions and appearance of curb extensions, delineator posts, and parking blocks. Kendall Knoke, project engineer, provided descriptions and local context for the use of these devices.

Volan requested a definition for the term "quick build." Duncan clarified that the phrase describes projects not made with permanent materials, such as concrete, and typically have a lifespan of 3-5 years.

2026 Proposed Budget Update [00:54:00]

Cibor presented a staff report on the 2026 proposed budget allocations for transportation-related projects.

Discussion:

Volan asked for the inclusion of real-world dollars associated with chart figures. Cibor clarified that the associated packet materials for City Council does provide that level of detail to some degree, and that resource is hyperlinked in the staff report. Volan asked if the Transportation Commission would be involved in the setting of budgetary priorities for future budget proposals. Cibor clarified that the intent of sharing the proposed budget is to solicit questions and comments about the priorities at this time, though he does understand the desire to participate at earlier stages of proposal development.

CASES (PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ETC.)

❖ TC-R-25-05: Parking on N Illinois St [00:57:40]

Staff recommends an amendment to Title 15 to remove the full-time "No Parking" restriction on the west side of Illinois Street between W 12th Street and W 15th Street, and install "No Parking" signage at the bus stop and near intersections to improve safety and visibility.

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission adopt the proposed findings and forward the resolution for an amendment to Title 15 related "No Parking" designation on Illinois Street (between W 12th and W 15th Streets), with a positive recommendation.

Driss Tahir (Engineering Department) presented.²

Discussion:

Strimaitis observed that the site in question has been frequently reported by residents as a problematic area. They also observed the possibility of installing an island for busses that would provide for more parking in the future.

Flaherty clarified that the proposed solution would increase the amount of functional parking in the area. Tahir affirmed that it would. Flaherty asked for clarification on whether or not the proposed change would affect whether or not the road could function as a "queuing street." Volan asked for a clarification on the meaning of the term "queuing street." Flaherty clarified that they understand the term to refer to streets where it is impossible or very uncomfortable for two cars to pass when parking is fully utilized, such that you have to wait for oncoming neighbors to pass in order to utilize the road.

Generally, Flaherty noted, this design is effective for controlling speed and maximizing safety.

Cibor affirmed that the proposed change would likely have the effect of creating queues as Flaherty described.

No public comment was heard on the item.

Stosberg made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Flaherty seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0 [01:06:44].

❖ TC-R-25-06 - Parking on W 8th St (Maple St to Rogers St)

Increase the time limit of existing limited parking zones on the south and portions of the north sides of W 8th St., between Rogers St. and Fairview St., from two hours to four hours.

² The Chair recognized the agenda item but a commissioner did not formally move to introduce the item for discussion. This procedure changed for the review of subsequent cases so that the Chair was not formally introducing items.

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission adopt the proposed findings and forward the resolution for an amendment to Section 15.32.080 related to the four hour limit on W 8th St. to the Council with a positive recommendation.

Stosberg motioned to introduce TC-R-25-06: Parking on W 8th St (Maple St to Rogers St). Flaherty seconded. Robling presented.

Discussion:

Flaherty asked about whether staff had considered removing neighborhood parking zone 10, citing low subscription from residents in the area. Robling noted that it wasn't considered for the petition before the Commission, but that staff are considering removing Zone 10 in the future.

Volan asked if meter parking performance was considered on on the West block of 8th St. Robling clarified that it wasn't considered for this petition. Volan followed up with a question about data collected for the petition. Robling clarified that spot checks were performed by staff but not during the school year.

Public Comment:

Daniel Pierce was recognized for public comment in person. Pierce observed from personal experience that the stretch of street in question in front of the school is used by guardians as a pick-up and drop-off zone for children.

Final Commission Discussion:

Volan noted that staff should include data utilized to inform their recommendations alongside the staff report. Volan also observed a general need for more discussion about neighborhood parking zones, noting that perhaps undersubscribed zones should be priced lower.

Stosberg made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Flaherty seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0 [01:17:55].

TC-P-25-07 - 2025 Resident Led Traffic Calming Program - W 11th St (Monroe - Maple)

2025 Resident-Led Traffic Calming Program project concept on W 11th St. from Monroe Street to Maple Street include three sets of speed cushions and a reduction of the posted speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission adopt the proposed findings, approve this project concept, and forward the proposed amendment to Section

15.24.020 of Title 15 related to the posted speed limit on W 11th Street to the Council with a positive recommendation.

Stosberg motioned to introduce TC-R-25-07: 2025 Resident Led Traffic Calming Program - W 11th St (Monroe - Maple). Flaherty seconded. Duncan presented.

Discussion:

Volan asked about whether one of the bump-outs in the plans could be sized to accommodate a tree planting. Duncan clarified that the specific plot in question is likely too small to accommodate a tree planting, but that they may consult the Senior Environmental Planner to discuss that suggestion. Volan asked whether or not it would be possible to make it policy that tree plots added to monolithic sidewalks be widened enough to accommodate tree plantings. Duncan affirmed that the Planning and Transportation Department would support such a policy, and that they would support adjusting this plan in particular for the inclusion of a tree plot. Duncan also cited that the project was one they inherited, so it is possible that a tree plot was originally not considered because staff were attending to needs for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and transit service vehicular accessibility.

Volan asked about staff use of prioritization scores and the development of the "walk potential" metric. Duncan invited Commissioner Stosberg to define the term "walk potential," citing their involvement with the development of it. Stosberg clarified that "walk potential" defines pedestrian demand throughout the City by evaluating 20 different categories of interesting destinations which a person might want to walk to; the more categories of things nearby, the higher the walk potential. Stosberg clarified that the term is not a metric for comfort (i.e., "walkability"), which is why it can be useful in a planning context—it helps planners prioritize areas where the infrastructure may be poor but the potential value to residents is predictably high. More technical questions about the use of the rubric were discussed.

No public comment was heard on the item.

Stosberg made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Flaherty seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

❖ TC-R-25-08 - Hopewell West and Related Code Updates

Certain modifications to Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) Title 15:

- ➤ Amend BMC 15.12.010 Schedule A to add: Traffic on "Jackson Street" Shall Stop for Traffic on "First Street"
- ➤ Amend BMC 15.32.100 Schedule O Loading Zones to add: "600 Block of South Jackson Street, first space north of 1st Street on the east side"

Staff recommends that the Transportation Commission adopt the proposed findings and forward the resolution for an amendment to Schedule A (stop

intersections) and Schedule O (loading zones) of Title 15 to the Council with a positive recommendation.

Stosberg motioned to introduce TC-R-25-08: Hopewell West and Related Code Updates. Flaherty seconded. Knoke presented.

Discussion:

Volan asked for clarification that the streets noted on the map provided are new streets. Knoke affirmed that the streets will be new.

Flaherty requested rationale for not extending the east-west alley through to S Rogers St. Knoke noted that the decision was made prior to his involvement with the project, but that his recollection was that there was a grading issue that interfered with installing a connection.

No public comment was heard on the item.

Stosberg made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Flaherty seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS NOT ON THE DOCKET

Commissioner Coppock: Intersection of E 3rd St. and S College St. [01:33:15]

Coppock inquired to Cibor about whether or not this intersection has been the focus of any staff investigations following a traffic accident. Coppock noted that someone had inquired to them about an investigation history. Cibor noted that the intersection was the focus of multiple investigations, citing upcoming changes due to construction of the new convention center and its inclusion within the College and Walnut Corridor Study.

Volan asked if crash data was available for public viewing. Robling cited the recent publication of a county-level dashboard that allows anyone to investigate crash data for roads all over Monroe County. Robling also reported that staff would update the website with a link to the dashboard for the sake of convenience.

Commissioner Flaherty: Transportation Commission Obligation to Produce a Parking Study [01:35:15]

Flaherty reminded fellow commissioners of the requirement outlined in municipal code for the Commission to produce an annual analysis fo parking asset management. Flaherty observed that production of the analysis will be a large undertaking and require additional resources. Volan observed that it was unlikely based on what had been observed earlier that the Walker Consulting study would serve the Commission's needs in this regard. Volan noted that it would be diligent to talk with administrative staff about how to organize and produce that kind of report. Coppock asked for clarification about the location of the 2018 Parking Study

produced by the former Parking Commission; Volan noted that this report should be linked on the Transportation Commission website in some capacity in the future.

Robling: Planning and Transportation to Host Public Meeting for the E 10th St. Safety Improvement Project [01:38:30]

Robling noted that a public meeting for the 10th St. Safety Improvement Project will be held on September 22 at 5:30PM, at E 10th St. in the parking lot of the Mr. Copy (501 E 10th St.)

Davis asked for clarification on the event location, noting that the building itself is not accessible for wheelchair users. Robling clarified that the event will be facilitated in the parking lot, not the building.

Commissioner Volan: Corridor Study Information [01:38:55]

Volan inquired about the public availability of information related to past, ongoing, or planned corridor studies. Robling noted that previous corridor studies should be linked on the <u>Planning Transportation Clearing House website</u>.

Commissioner Volan: Procedures for Requesting Traffic Investigations [01:39:49]

Volan inquired about the process for requesting staff consideration of specific infrastructure interventions or traffic control changes at intersections in the City. Cibor recommends that Commissioners and residents utilize the uReport system to identify specific places in town for staff to investigate. Cibor also noted that anyone may also email staff directly for guidance or discussion about such inquiries. Stosberg noted anecdotally that the uReport system does seem to escalate issues to staff in a timely manner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[01:44:20] James Ferguson presented a petition on behalf of 134 voting-age residents from the Blue Ridge Community for further discussion of the traffic devices in place to control speeds around access points to the neighborhood and a nearby chiropractic office.

[01:48:15] Daniel Piece, as a Blue Ridge neighborhood resident, expressed support for the safety improvements noted in the Blue Ridge petition presented by Ferguson.

[01:50:00] Cary Floyd and Kevin Floyd provided comment as Blue Ridge neighborhood residents who also frequently use bicycles. They expressed support for the safety improvements, and specifically the traffic signal, proposed in the petition presented by Ferguson. Kevin cited game-days as particularly hazardous.

ADJOURNMENT at 07:23 PM