

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 6:30pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
January 23, 2019

Members Present: Ruff, Sturbaum, Chopra, Piedmont-Smith, Granger, Volan, Sandberg, Sims, Rollo
Members Absent: None

ROLL CALL [6:36pm]

Council President Dave Rollo gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:36pm]

There were no minutes for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 19-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. City Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

RESOLUTION 19-01 – TO ADOPT
THE CITY’S TRANSPORTATION
PLAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO
THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN [6:37pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded that Resolution 19-01 be adopted.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt a statement of procedure as follows:

Motion to adopt Statement of
Procedure

Consideration of the Transportation Plan and Amendments

The Council will consider the adoption of the *Transportation Plan (Plan)* (as proposed by Res 19-01) over a series of meetings. First, the Council will hear a staff presentation of the *Plan* over three consecutive Wednesdays, January 23rd through February 6th. Then, Councilmembers will submit any amendments to the Council Office by February 13th. The Council will deliberate on these proposed amendments and if ready, vote on the *Plan* as amended on February 27th.

The conduct of the deliberations will proceed as follows:

- Planning and Transportation staff will present the relevant portion of the *Plan*;
- Council members may then ask questions relevant to that portion of the *Plan* for response that evening or at a later time;
- The public may offer comments (see below); and
- Lastly, Council members may ask further questions (with leave of the Council), comment, and take whatever actions are in order at that time.
- The Council will consider the adoption of the *Plan* “in seriatim.” This is a parliamentary procedure that provides for a section-by-section review of the document while also allowing sections and changes to be revisited before a final vote is taken. In accordance with this procedure, the Council will end each meeting by recessing until the next time it deliberates on this proposal.

Public Comment

When public comment is requested, members of the public may speak once and for no more than 5 minutes. In addition, members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments to the Council at council@bloomington.in.gov.

Amendments

Motion to adopt Statement of Procedure (*cont'd*)

Sponsorship. Amendments must be sponsored by Council members. While members of the public may not propose amendments directly, they may request that a Councilmember do so. Requests for Councilmember sponsorship may either be sent to council@bloomington.in.gov or sent directly to a Councilmember (individual e-mail addresses can be found here: <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>)

In Writing. All amendments must be in written form and must be on a form provided by the Council Office. The form is posted here.

Deadline. All amendments are due no later than **FEBRUARY 13th at NOON**. Amendments should be submitted directly to Council staff by Councilmembers. Members of the public who wish to have a Councilmember sponsor an amendment should contact the Council or Councilmember *well in advance* of the February 13th deadline.

All amendments timely submitted will be issued in the Council's Legislative Packet on 22 February and the Council will discuss these amendments at its meeting on 27 February. The time between the deadline for sponsorship of amendments and the release of amendments in the legislative packet the following week is intended assure that the amendments have been adequately reviewed by the Council members, Council Office staff, and City Planning and Transportation staff prior to consideration by the Council as a whole.

Consideration of Amendments and Transportation Plan on February 27th

The Council will review amendments at the meeting on February 27th. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Council may vote to adopt Res 19-01 and *Transportation Plan*, as amended. If not ready to take that step on the 27th, the Council may schedule further meetings to complete its deliberations. Please note that at this stage of the deliberations:

- The entire document will be open to further amendments subject to whatever deadlines adopted by the Council;
- Amendments previously voted upon by the Council may be also reconsidered upon a *Motion to Reconsider*, which is offered by someone from the prevailing side of the previous vote, and once reconsidered, must have a majority vote of the Council in order to be adopted; and
- After considering any new amendments and revisited amendments, the Council is expected to take a single vote to adopt the entire document as amended.

Suspension of the Rules

The procedures and meetings set forth in this Statement anticipates actions to be taken during the course of these deliberations. This procedure may be altered by a *Motion to Suspend the Rules*, which requires a 2/3s majority in order to succeed.

Time and Place of Meetings

These meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in the Showers Center at 401 North Morton Street. All the meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The motion to adopt the statement of procedure received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on motion to adopt Statement of Procedure [6:44pm]

Beth Rosenbarger, Planning Services Manager, summarized the schedule for review of the Transportation Plan (Plan). She described some concepts that were addressed throughout the Plan, including access, equity, affordability, public health, climate change, and land use. She provided statistics related to the area median income, average household transportation spending, and the percentage of households with one vehicle. She explained the relationship between the Plan and the adopted Comprehensive Plan, noting the goals of the Comprehensive Plan that were implicated by the Plan.

Review of the Transportation Plan

Volan asked whether the data on average household transportation spending was reliable.

Council Questions:

Rosenbarger said the data came from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Rollo asked whether the average household transportation spending data included all types of transportation, like flights for vacations.

Rosenbarger said she would have to review the source data to provide more information.

Marc Cornett spoke about the need to focus on outcomes and what was actually happening in the community.

Public Comment:

Bella Harrison spoke about the importance of clearing sidewalks of snow and ice to encourage people to walk.

Volan pointed out that the discussion on the Plan had just started. He reminded everyone to direct comments to the Council chair.

Council Comment:

Ruff asked Rosenbarger to comment on the concept of mobility and whether that idea was included in the concept of access.

Rosenbarger said mobility was included in access.

Rollo said he appreciated the public input.

Rosenbarger presented Chapter 1 of the Plan. She noted that state law required the city to have a Transportation Plan as part of its Comprehensive Plan. She noted the city had a Master Thoroughfare Plan from 2002 and a Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation and Greenways System Plan from 2001. She said the proposed Plan would combine both previous documents and would be based on the goals stated in the Comprehensive Plan. She described the process of drafting the Plan. She noted the Plan was revised by the Plan Commission in October, 2018 and sent to the Council in November, 2018. She said one main concern voiced by the public was public transportation. She explained that the city did not fully control Bloomington Transit, so the Plan did not address many things that fell under the purview of Bloomington Transit. She said the Plan did address access to transit and other items related to transit.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Councilmember Jim Sims said that transit's ridership had been dropping over the past few years. He asked if Rosenbarger had an opinion as to the cause of the drop. He wondered if improving access to transit might help reverse the trend.

Council Questions:

Rosenbarger said that gas prices and the availability of other transportation options influenced transit ridership. She said that gas prices were relatively low at the moment. She also noted that

options like Lyft, Uber, rental scooters, and apartment shuttles provided other ways for people to get around.

Sims asked if transit ridership was made up primarily of individuals with low incomes.

Rosenbarger said yes, and noted that students also made up a large portion of the ridership.

Piedmont-Smith asked what plans there were to keep the Plan up to date after adoption.

Rosenbarger noted that the Plan had a time horizon of 20 years, but thought it should be revisited every five years.

Sandberg asked Rosenbarger to comment on the idea that Bloomington was not dense enough to have an efficient transit system. She also asked Rosenbarger to elaborate on what entity did exercise control over the transit system and its funding.

Rosenbarger said that Bloomington was denser than Indianapolis or Fort Wayne, and thought the city could have a successful transit system, depending on the ridership goals the city set. She said the city could work with transit to come up with new ways to use city right-of-way to encourage transit ridership. She said Lew May, General Manager of Bloomington Transit, would have more information about funding.

Granger hoped that the city communicated regularly with Bloomington Transit.

Rosenbarger said that was the case.

Rollo asked if the proposed Plan should somehow include route information from Transit so the city could better plan how to ensure access to transit for people.

Rosenbarger said the Plan did not specify locations where sidewalks should be constructed, but instead included a framework for considering existing transit routes when addressing pedestrian facilities.

Volan asked if Bloomington Transit was taking the proposed Plan into account for its route optimization study, or whether it was simply focused on ridership.

Rosenbarger said Transit was good at working with the city, and explained how Transit was conducting its optimization study.

Piedmont-Smith clarified that most of Transit's funding came from state and federal funding. She said it did not receive any funding from sales tax sources. She said a local income tax for transit had been proposed before to the state, but had not yet passed.

Marc Cornett spoke about transit facilities.

Volan spoke about the need to set parking prices so that drivers paid for the true cost of parking. He noted that the majority of riders on buses were students, and that without buses, Bloomington would have more traffic and more demand for parking.

Rosenbarger presented Chapter 2 of the Plan to the Council. She displayed the percentages of various forms of transportation used in the city. She briefly summarized the topics addressed in the chapter, including a review of previous and related transportation plans, information on transportation network companies, and crash data.

Chapter 1: Introduction (*cont'd*)

Public Comment:

Council Comment:

Chapter 2: The State of Transportation in Bloomington

Council Questions:

Sturbaum said that scooters presented safety challenges to the city and wondered if the Plan should address the issue.

Rosenbarger said safety was an overarching concern in the Plan. She thought that portions of the Plan that addressed bicycle safety could also serve to address scooters. She thought it was an issue to study in the future.

Rollo pointed out that some of the information on traffic volume was up to 10 years old. He asked if that information was still reliable. He asked if the Plan should include information about the level of service for city roads, to indicate whether those roads were at capacity.

Rosenbarger said staff had discussed whether to include the outdated information. She said it was fair to ask whether such information was helpful or whether it needed to be updated. She said it might be possible to add information about the level of service, but said that was a flawed metric that focused on adding capacity for vehicular traffic.

Rollo said the information might be useful and thought it could be included.

Public Comment:

Marc Cornett commented on using level of service as a metric.

Council Comment:

Chopra thanked Rosenbarger and planning staff for their work on the Plan and reminded everyone that they were professional planners who deserved an amount of deference.

Rollo said that the service level mattered as a metric if for no other reason but to ensure that emergency responders could access different parts of the city.

Sims suggested that Rosenbarger confirm the number of Indiana University faculty and staff that lived within three miles of campus. He also wondered how much the Plan should attempt to address outcomes related to physical activity and public health.

Rosenbarger explained why such information was included in the Plan. She said many of the goals of the Plan would correlate to better outcomes for levels of physical activity in the community.

Executive Summary

Rosenbarger presented the Executive Summary to the Council. She listed the key recommendations presented in the summary, which included: planning for future street connections; integrating transportation and land use; redesigning Kirkwood Avenue as a shared street with a focus on pedestrians; improving multimodal travel along major east-west and north-south corridors; extending the B-Line and investing in high-priority multimodal routes; expanding the neighborhood greenways network; and adopting a complete streets policy. She briefly described why each recommendation was included, the level of public support for each recommendation as voiced in a community survey, and where in the Plan the recommendations were discussed.

Council Questions:

Volan asked if the city already had a complete streets policy.

Rosenbarger said no. She said the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) had one, which applied to any project that received MPO funding.

Volan asked if there were questions in the survey about how safe people felt using one-way streets.

Rosenbarger said no.

Rollo pointed out that some street connections could be negotiated in the planned unit development process.

Rosenbarger agreed, but said it was better to include any possible street connection in the Plan to help provide transparency and set expectations for developers.

Public Comment:

Marc Cornett encouraged the city to emphasize seating areas on public sidewalks.

Jean Capler suggested that the city think about the placement of benches along sidewalks.

Janet Dunigan voiced concerns about a planned project along 7th Street.

Additional Council Questions:

Sturbaum asked how the Seventh Street project would fit into the existing street space.

Rosenbarger said that was a problem staff dealt with all the time. She said it meant there would be discussions about the features and priorities that were most important to the city for the project.

Rollo asked when the public would have an opportunity to review and provide input on the Seventh Street greenway project.

Rosenbarger said that a survey had been issued to better understand the limitations that the city would need to work within. She explained that a public meeting and a stakeholder meeting would be scheduled in the future.

Sturbaum asked if the project would reduce the amount of available parking on Seventh Street.

Rosenbarger said that the plans were still conceptual, but that some parking would likely be displaced.

Sturbaum asked what the process for review would be for the project.

Rosenbarger said there would be a public meeting and outreach to the neighborhood and businesses along the corridor.

Scott Robinson, Assistant Director of the Planning and Transportation Department, elaborated on the opportunities for public participation in the process of designing the project.

Council Comment:

Sandberg encouraged concerned citizens to participate in public meetings and to spread the word about projects affecting their neighborhoods.

Rollo asked whether benches along sidewalks should be considered.

Rosenbarger said that was not something specifically called for in the Plan, but might be a good topic for discussion.

The Council discussed voicing its support for the passage of hate crime legislation by the state, as well as the form such support might take.

OTHER BUSINESS [9:01pm]

Sandberg disclosed a financial conflict of interest. Volan moved and it was seconded to accept the disclosure. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

Rollo appointed Volan to serve on the Trades District Garage Design Initiative.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Rollo moved and it was seconded to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting after the Regular Session on February 6, 2019, and to schedule a Special Session before the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 13, 2019. The motion was approved by voice vote.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE [9:09pm]

The meeting went into recess at 9:14pm.

RECESS

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 6th day of March, 2019.

APPROVE:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:



Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

