

# The Planning Post

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
 PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



## New Traffic Calming Policy

On October 27 the Common Council voted to approve a revised traffic calming program. The Traffic Calming and Greenways Program (TCGP) will replace the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP). The goals of the new program are to manage a consistent, data-driven process, allocate resources to objectively reduce speeding in areas where there is a high incidence of behaviors likely to cause harm, and provide a pathway for the City-led Neighborhood Greenways, a major component of the 2019 Bloomington Transportation Plan.

The new policy provides two distinct processes. A Resident-Led Traffic Calming Process which provides a yearly cycle for residents to request and add speed cushions on residential streets. In this process, projects are objectively evaluated and ranked on a rubric determined by the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Commission. This year's window for residents to submit projects for consideration is open until February 22, 2021.

The second process, the Staff-led Traffic Calming/ Neighborhood Greenway Process allows city staff to address situations that have the potential to cause injury or provide relatively minor changes that improve safety. Additionally, the process outlines the process for the City to lead the design, public engagement and installation of the High Priority Bike Network.

More information can be found on our Traffic Calming and Greenways Program website ([www.bloomington.in.gov/tcgp](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/tcgp))  
 Special congratulations to our Planning Services Team, in particular Mallory Rickbeil, our Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, who spearheaded this effort to update the City's traffic calming program and helping make our neighborhood streets more vibrant!

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# Construction Buzz

## Recent Developments Approved by Plan Commission



### Osage Place

Located off of Guy Avenue, just west of RCA park, this recent approval included an amendment to an existing PUD to allow for 70 single-family lots. This development will include a mix of attached and detached single-family dwellings, all of which will be affordable housing. The homes will be constructed by Habitat for Humanity and only sold to income eligible families.

### 3rd & Grant

This project included two new 5-story mixed-use structures, one on the northeast corner and one on the northwest corner of the 3rd St. and Grant St. intersection. This project is designed to achieve the Tier 2 Affordable Housing Incentives in the UDO and will include ground floor commercial space.



### Johnson's Creamery

This project includes a new 5-story mixed-use structure located at the Johnson's Creamery office building off of W 7th Street. This development will include 60 dwelling units, ground floor commercial space, and incorporates sustainable development incentives from the UDO.



*More information on affordable housing developments can be found at:*



# Transportation Projects

## Recent Infrastructure Projects

### Adams Street Protected Bike Lane

Located along West Adams Street between West Patterson Dr. and West Kirkwood Ave. this is Bloomington's first protected bike lane. This stretch of West Adams now features a bike lane separated from the travel lane by a tree plot and includes a new sidewalk connection. "Protected" or "Separated" Bike lanes provide safer travel for both cyclists and drivers.



### Downtown Alleys Project

The Downtown Alley Activation project will serve to activate and enhance three blocks of alleys near the downtown square to increase the safety and appeal of the city's downtown as a destination. This project includes replacement of the road surface, correction of drainage issues, and installation of a pedestrian walkway in both the north-south and east-west alleys.



### Sare Road Multiuse Path and Intersection Improvements Project

This project will construct intersection improvements at the Sare Road-Moores Pike intersection and a multiuse path on the west side of Sare Road from approximately Cathcart Street to Buttonwood Lane. The project is programmed to receive federal funding assistance for preliminary engineering, construction, and construction engineering.



# Long Range Planning

## Recent Long Range Team Project

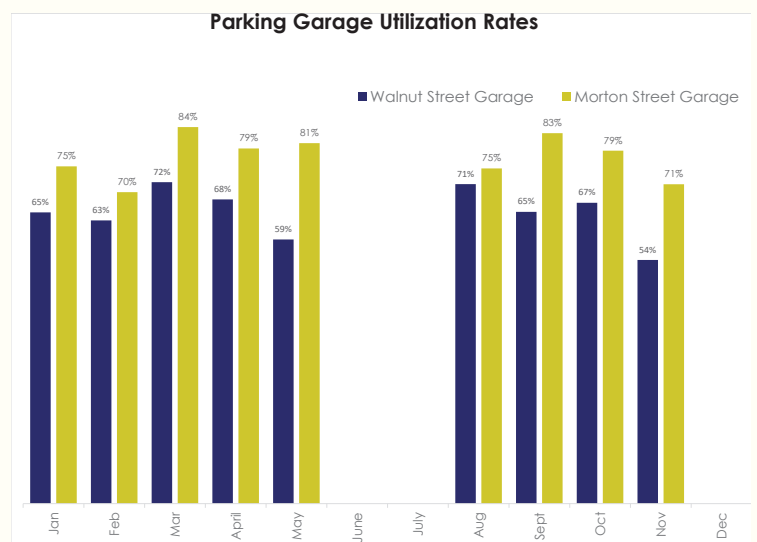
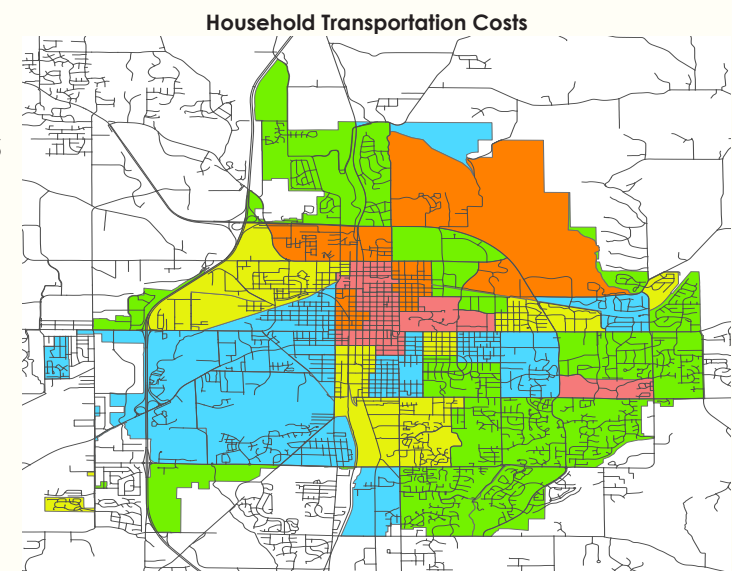
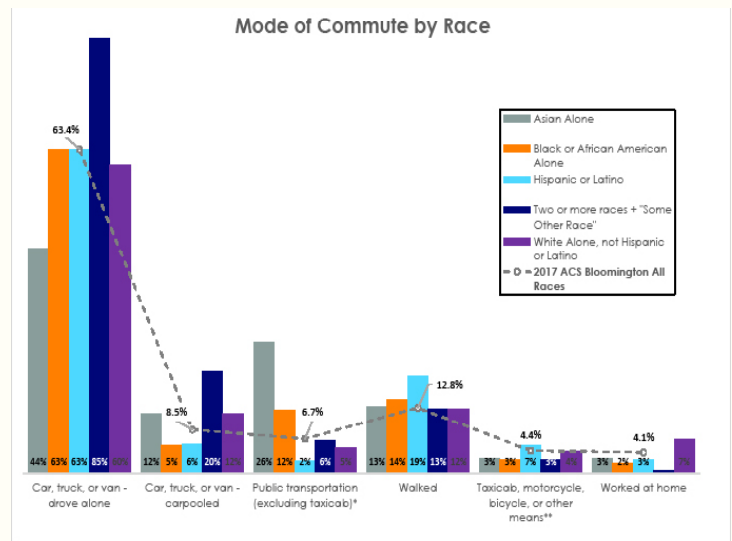
### Comprehensive Plan Tracking

The Bloomington Comprehensive Plan is the city's long range plan for land use and development. It is a set of goals, policies, maps, illustrations, and implementation strategies that state how the City of Bloomington should address development: physically, socially, and economically.

The Long Range Planning team recently presented updates to the City Council on how the city is doing on achieving the goals we have set in the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan provides outcomes and indicators that we can track in order to measure our progress. The planning staff chose 12 indicators to present to council with a focus on housing and transportation.

As Beth Rosenbarger, Planning Services Manager, puts it, "Checking in on the Comprehensive Plan is important. Because not checking on the goals would be like setting out on a 600 mile road-trip and not checking your map to make sure you're going the right direction."

The Long Range Planning team plans on presenting even more indicators to City Council for 2021 to see if we're reaching the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and guide policy decisions to help us get there.





# Staff Updates

## Recent Staff Changes

Patrick was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri (Go Tigers!) and graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology, better known as just Rolla, with a BS in Civil Engineering. He started his engineering career in Vancouver, British Columbia working on the Port Mann/Highway 1 project, later returning home to work as a construction inspector for the City of Columbia. Then he chased his restaurant dream by designing, building, and operating Grill-A-Brothers food truck, specializing in smoked meats and grilled sandwiches. Patrick made his way to Bloomington in 2018 and worked for Aztec Engineering before moving to the other side of the Showers building to start at the City as a Project Engineer. Most of his free time is spent walking his dog, Margo, with his wife through Bryan Park, tackling large home remodeling projects, wood working, cooking, hiking and camping.



**Patrick Dierkes**  
Project Engineer

## Promotions



**Scott Robinson**  
Planning & Transportation Director

Congratulations to Scott Robinson on his appointment to be the new Planning & Transportation Director! Scott has served as Assistant Director since 2018 and served as Interim Director following Terri Porter's retirement. Scott has been with the City's Planning Department for 18 years and has played an integral role in shaping our land use and transportation policy.



**Congratulations to our former director Terri Porter on her retirement! Terri served as the Planning and Transportation Director from 2017 to 2020. We wanted to check-in with her and see how she's doing.**

**What are you most looking forward to about retirement?**

I've been retired for more than a month now and what I enjoy most is having control of my time and schedule. I've been hiking with friends, traveled to state parks to enjoy our beautiful fall colors, and have re-discovered how much I love to bake. Good thing I now have time to exercise everyday. I have no more excuses! When Covid is finally managed my husband and I hope to travel to the three states I've not yet visited - Utah, Idaho and Montana. I plan to run a half marathon in each one. More international travel is also on the horizon at some point.

**What is one of your proudest achievements as the Director of Planning and Transportation?**

I am most proud of the number of staff members who were promoted and/or reached their stretch goals! When I came on board in 2017 I had 1:1 meetings with each team member. One thing I heard several times was a feeling that there were no opportunities for growth. Many people felt stuck. I committed to change that and I have to say I lost track after more than 10 of you moved into more challenging positions or took on additional responsibilities. I'm also very proud of all the new team members who came on board!

**What was one of your biggest challenges throughout your career?**

Being a woman coming up through the ranks to take on senior management positions was very challenging and discouraging at times. I was held to a different standard and more scrutinized than my male counterparts. Even during my time as director, I was frequently interrupted, often not allowed to finish a sentence and was even 'shooshed' during a meeting.  
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One of my former supervisors even said I was “pissy”. I wonder how many men have earned that distinction. I had to fight hard for what I believed and I developed a pretty thick skin over the course of my career. I also built a network of other women in leadership positions as we all had experienced this demeaning treatment and have developed different coping strategies. I strongly encourage women to keep pushing against glass ceilings wherever they exist, just be prepared for a few battle scars along the way.

### **Any words of wisdom for your former colleagues?**

Always remember that honesty and respect are the cornerstones of trust, and people must trust you before they are willing to be led by you. Treat others with respect and honesty so that they can see those qualities in you.

One more thing, always trust your inner voice. Some people also call this their gut feeling or intuition. If you feel like something isn't right, it probably isn't. If there's something that you've been dreaming about doing, go ahead and give it a go! You know what you know, so trust yourself.