

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission 2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

September 29, 2025

Introduction

The Transportation and Mobility Commission (TMC) is a Mayor and Council appointed commission that focuses on walking, rolling, bicycling, transit, and driving. The TMC primarily serves to provide guidance to the Mayor and Council and Planning Commission as it relates to multimodal transportation issues in the City. The TMC recognizes that an effective transportation network contributes to economic development, sustainable communities, social activity, equity, and resiliency in Rockville.

Advice Given to the City

Over the past year, the TMC has submitted comments and recommendations on the following topics to the Mayor and Council and City Staff.

- Red light camera enforcement
- Transportation comments and considerations for the Rockville Metrorail Station Visioning Plan
- Support for establishing a designated residential permit parking area along the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Lewis Avenue
- Support for the City's FY 26 Regional Roadway Safety Program grant project to study Complete Streets improvements on Rollins Avenue
- Budget priorities for FY 26 and recognition of Mayor and Council funding for multimodal transportation improvements
- Transportation comments and considerations for the Congressional Lane Complete Streets study
- Transportation comments and considerations for the E. Jefferson Street and Halpine Road bicycle facilities study and design project

How the TMC can serve the City of Rockville

The TMC is a dedicated, informed, resident-led commission that can provide the Mayor and Council with additional comments and recommendations from the community regarding a variety of transportation projects. The TMC regularly hears from transportation, enforcement, and policy experts, is educated on current topics, and actively participates in the City's transportation and Vision Zero projects. The TMC also frequently collaborates with the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, bringing forward consistent advice among the committees. The TMC welcomes the opportunity to respond to requests from the Mayor and Council and explore issues in depth to provide key insight and opportunities for Rockville.

Guiding Principles

The TMC seeks to support the City's efforts to achieve Vision Zero, increase accessibility for people of all abilities, and expand multimodal facilities. There are several guiding principles which help direct the TMC towards meeting these goals.

Multimodal – The TMC recognizes a multimodal transportation system as one that meets the travel needs of all people, ensuring that they are able to travel safely, conveniently, and directly. Investing in multimodal transportation will grant residents more freedom of choice regarding their travel options and increase access across the City, especially in communities that have been historically neglected or are not as motor vehicle oriented.

Safety– A safe transportation network can reduce and ultimately eliminate crashes resulting in serious injuries and fatalities as well as increase the perceived safety for everyone. The TMC explores transportation hazards for all modes and works to identify priorities and budget investments for City improvements to increase safety. Further understanding that people who walk, roll, and bicycle are more vulnerable in the roadway network, additional safety enhancements that specifically serve these roadway users are often necessary.

Accessibility – A comprehensive transportation network must provide access for roadway users of all abilities, this includes residents and visitors that use mobility devices and strollers, are older adults, and/or have disabilities. Moreover, the transportation infrastructure itself must not obstruct the ability of people to reach their destinations. The TMC encourages the City to invest significant resources towards accessibility improvements that will achieve goals sought by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Transportation Infrastructure for Community – While transportation infrastructure provides mobility for residents and visitors, it has also created barriers for communities, obstructing them from opportunities within the City. The TMC supports transportation infrastructure that not only helps facilitate economic and social activity, but also bridges communities together.

Future Topics and Focus Areas

The TMC seeks direction from the Rockville Mayor and Council. The Commission is committed to help Rockville build an inclusive and accessible transportation system for all users. The following discussion includes additional information regarding the Transportation and Mobility Commission.

In addition to carrying out its stated functions, the TMC has chosen two items to focus additional efforts to help advance equitable and multimodal transportation in Rockville. The first focus area is to improve transportation policies related to land development. The TMC has invited staff to discuss the ongoing Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, the Comprehensive Transportation Review, and the Chapter 21, Road Code, update. The

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission
2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

TMC will continue to provide comments and suggestions to the City and to the Mayor and Council for better policy outcomes.

The second focus area is to provide better guidance to improve transit use in the City. This includes tracking and providing guidance on the Veirs Mill Road and MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit Projects. One member of the TMC participates in the County's Citizen Advisory Committee for the MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit project. Additionally, the TMC seeks to identify improvement for local transit, including raising issues and considerations for the City to undertake to improve the experience for people using bus and rail transit.

Guidance and Support for City Projects

The TMC regularly reviews City master plan drafts, large development applications, and City projects. Additionally, the TMC will raise transportation related concerns to the Mayor and Council. Under the leadership of the current chair since the Fall 2021, the TMC has provided guidance for the following projects.

Year	Project Type	Project	Recipient
July 2025	City Transportation Project	E. Jefferson Street and Halpine Road Bicycle Facility Study and Design	Department of Public Works
May 2025	Annual Budget	FY 26 Budget Comments	Mayor and Council
April 2024	City Transportation Project	Congressional Lane Complete Streets Study	Department of Public Works
October 2024	Residential Parking Permits	1000 and 1100 Block of Lewis Avenue	Mayor and Council
August 2024	Master Plan	Rockville Town Center Master Plan and Rockville Metrorail Station Visioning Plan	Mayor and Council
August 2024	Transportation Concern	Red light camera enforcement	Rockville City Police Department
June 2024	Master Plan	Rockville Town Center Master Plan	Planning Commission
May 2024	City Transportation Project	Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines Comments	Department of Public Works
April 2024	Annual Budget	FY 25 Budget Comments	Mayor and Council
November 2023	Comprehensive Transportation Review	Comprehensive Transportation Review Update	Mayor and Council
September 2023	Master Plan	Pedestrian Master Plan	Planning Commission
April 2023	Annual Budget	FY 24 Budget Comments	Mayor and Council

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission
2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

January 2023	Transportation Concern	No Right Turn on Red, Leading Pedestrian Intervals	Mayor and Council
July 2022	Development Application	1818 Chapman Avenue	Mayor and Council, Planning Commission
May 2022	Development Application	15931 Frederick Road	Planning Commission
April 2022	Commission Function	Transportation and Mobility Commission Ordinance and Roles	Mayor and Council

Additionally, the TMC further supports the City's work to seek and obtain external funding for transportation projects. The TMC has provided letters of support for the following grant applications.

Grant Opportunity	Result
FY 23 Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, Maryvale Park to Redgate Park Shared Use Path	Awarded
FY 23 Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant Program, Martins Lane Bicycle Lanes	Awarded
FY 23 Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant Program, Permanent Pedestrian and Bicycle Counters	Awarded
FY 23 Reconnecting Communities/Neighborhood Access and Equity, Twinbrook Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge	Awarded
FY 23 Safe Streets and Roads For All, Intersection Safety Audits	Awarded
FY 24 MWCOC Transportation and Land Use Connections Grant, Mannakee Street Complete Streets	Awarded
FY 24 MWCOC Regional Roadway Safety Program, Pedestrian Crossing Guidelines	Awarded
FY 24 Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant Program, E. Jefferson Street and Halpine Road Bicycle Facilities	Awarded
2024 AARP Community Challenge Flagship Grant, Bicycle and Scooter Parking Corrals	Not Awarded
FY 25 Kim Lamphier Maryland Bikeways Network Grant Program, Research Boulevard Shared Use Path	Not Awarded
FY 25 Transportation Alternatives Program, Scott-Veirs Shared use Path	Awarded
FY 26 MWCOC Regional Roadway Safety Program, Rollins Avenue Complete Streets	Awarded

Membership

Currently, there are eight members of the TMC.

- Kathleen Kleinmann, Chair
- Jude Abanulo

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission
2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

- Irene Bowen
- Michael Brooks
- Gerald Cichy
- Jeffrey Ganz
- Marc Plante
- Thomas Rogers

Councilmember Marissa Valeri is the current council liaison to the TMC and Bryan Barnett-Woods, Principal Transportation Planner from the Department of Public Works, is the current staff liaison.

Past members of the TMC who have participated within the past three years, under the current chair, include:

- Bill He
- Doug Lerley
- Sogand Karbalaieali
- Emily Peterman
- Sarah Morgan
- Paul Scott
- Mike Stein
- Ying Wong

Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities

Prior to March 2023, the TMC was known as the “Traffic and Transportation Commission,” which was established by Mayor and Council resolution in 1972. The responsibilities of this commission were subsequently updated in 1976 and 1979 (Resolution # 3-76, and 3-79).

The Commission recommended changing its name in 2023 to the “Transportation and Mobility Commission” to better reflect the multimodal nature of the City’s transportation system. While “traffic” can convey all modes, it is often primarily used to consider motor vehicle traffic. “Mobility” better indicates the movement of people and goods, regardless of a specific mode of transportation and is a more inclusive term representing people walking, rolling, bicycling, using transit, and driving. This change is consistent with the emphasis of multimodal transportation goals included in the Rockville 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Vision Zero Action Plan, the Bikeway Master Plan, and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

In addition to changing the commission’s name, the Mayor and Council refined the TMC’s responsibilities in Ordinance No. 4-23 (Attachment 2). These responsibilities include:

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission
2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

- (a) Advise the Mayor and Council on opportunities to advance a multi-modal transportation and mobility network in the City of Rockville that is safe, equitable, convenient, fiscally resilient, and environmentally sustainable;
- (b) Provide written comments and recommendations to the Mayor and Council, as deemed appropriate by the Transportation and Mobility Commission or requested by the Mayor and Council, on existing and proposed City transportation and mobility-related programs, policies, and plans;
- (c) Coordinate with and, where appropriate, advise other City boards and commissions and City staff involved in transportation and mobility issues;
- (d) Advise the Mayor and Council on the annual budget regarding transportation and mobility matters;
- (e) Provide written comments to the Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission on development applications as required by the Comprehensive Transportation Review;
- (f) Administer the designation and revocation of permit parking areas as provided in City Code [Section 23-44](#);
- (g) Advise the Mayor and Council on the naming of newly constructed or reconstructed bridges within the City of Rockville; and
- (h) As directed by the Mayor and Council, engage with the public to extend transportation and mobility-related education efforts.

Meetings

The TMC meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Meetings are normally held virtually at 7:00 PM. In some instances, meetings are held in-person at a conference room at City Hall. Residents and interested stakeholders are welcome to attend. The meeting agenda as well as the link for virtual attendance are posted to the City's online Agenda Center and Calendar prior to the meeting.

All meetings include a Community Forum agenda item. Rockville residents and stakeholders are welcome to attend and raise transportation related issues with the TMC.

Other regular agenda items include updates on City transportation capital improvement projects, ongoing transportation maintenance projects, and the work program of the Traffic and Transportation Division. Additionally, the TMC receives presentations from other city departments and agencies, including the Community Planning and Development Services Committee and the Rockville City Police Department. Lastly, the TMC receives presentations from property development applicants if the subject

City of Rockville Transportation and Mobility Commission
2025 Report to the Mayor and Council

development applications generate a certain threshold of new automobile trips, consistent with the Comprehensive Transportation Review.

The TMC has received presentations from City and County staff on the following topics.

City Staff	Topic
Joe Moges (Montgomery County Department of Transportation)	MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit
Holly Simmons & Jim Wasilak	City of Rockville Zoning Ordinance Rewrite
Manisha Tewari	Shady Grove Annexation
Delores Scott	City of Rockville ADA workplan
Katie Gerbes	Rockville Town Center Master Plan
Jennifer Wang	Residential Permit Parking Designation
Emad Elshafei	Department of Public Works Ongoing Work Program

Coordination with other committees

The TMC coordinates closely with the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee. While these committees have more focused roles, they also support multimodal transportation in Rockville. The TMC will coordinate with these committees when providing comments on development applications and submitting comments and letters of support for ongoing projects. Additionally, TMC members have attended other committee meetings in the past.

The TMC looks forward to a productive year, collaborating with the Mayor and Council and City staff to build a safer, equitable, and sustainable multimodal transportation system.