



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

FREDDIE O'CONNELL
MAYOR

NASHVILLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Traffic and Parking Commission

FROM: J. Andrew Smith, Engineer 2
Nashville Department of Transportation

DATE: December 1, 2025

SUBJECT: December 8, 2025, Traffic and Parking Commission Meeting Staff Analysis

PURPOSE:

This analysis provides an overview of all items on the upcoming Metropolitan Traffic and Parking Commission agenda to ensure that commission members have the information necessary for discussion and action prior to the commission meeting.

Commissioners are encouraged to contact Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT) staff prior to the meeting with any questions. The Commission's Metro Legal advisors are: Phylinda Ramsey (phylinda.ramsey@nashville.gov), Erica Haber (erica.haber@nashville.gov), and Ann Mikkelsen (ann.mikkelsen@nashville.gov).

Consent Agenda

5.1 CD 16: Mandatory referral 2025M-006AB-001, proposing abandonment of a portion of Alley #1907 between Drake Ave and Alley #1906, requested by adjacent property owners.

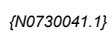
Commission Authority: Metropolitan Charter § 11.905: “Where a proposed ordinance affects traffic control or the use of streets by traffic and is not accompanied at introduction by a favorable recommendation of the traffic and parking commission, a copy thereof shall be promptly delivered by the metropolitan clerk to the commission and the same shall not be passed on second reading until the recommendation of said commission with respect to the proposal has been received, or thirty (30) days have elapsed without such recommendation. No ordinance which affects traffic control or the use of streets by traffic and which has been disapproved by the commission shall be finally passed or become effective unless it shall have been adopted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the whole membership of the metropolitan council and also then be approved by the metropolitan mayor with a three-fourths majority of the whole membership of the metropolitan council required to override a veto

Metropolitan Code of Laws § 13.08.010(A): “There is created and established an official street and alley acceptance and maintenance record for the metropolitan government, which record is composed of a series of maps showing thereon, by words, lines or symbols, the dedicated streets and alleys which are accepted and maintained or abandoned for public maintenance by the metropolitan government. The official street and alley acceptance record herein established may be amended from time to time by ordinance of the metropolitan council setting out additions, deletions or any other amendments to such record.”

Recommendation: Approval of mandatory referral 2025M-006AB-001 for abandonment of a portion of Alley #1907 between Drake Ave and Alley #1906.

Analysis: The applicant seeks to abandon approximately 195 feet of Alley 1907, between Drave Avenue and Alley #1906, approximately 150 feet west of Meade Avenue. This ROW is neighbored by parcels 13301006200 and 13301006300. The portion of ROW proposed to be abandoned is unimproved, does not currently serve Metro purposes, and is not part of the Major and Collector Street Plan network, with little feasibility for future public roadway plans. Unimproved Alley #1906 can provide access to parcels 13301006200 and 13301006300, if necessary for future public roadway plans. All utility easements shall be retained.

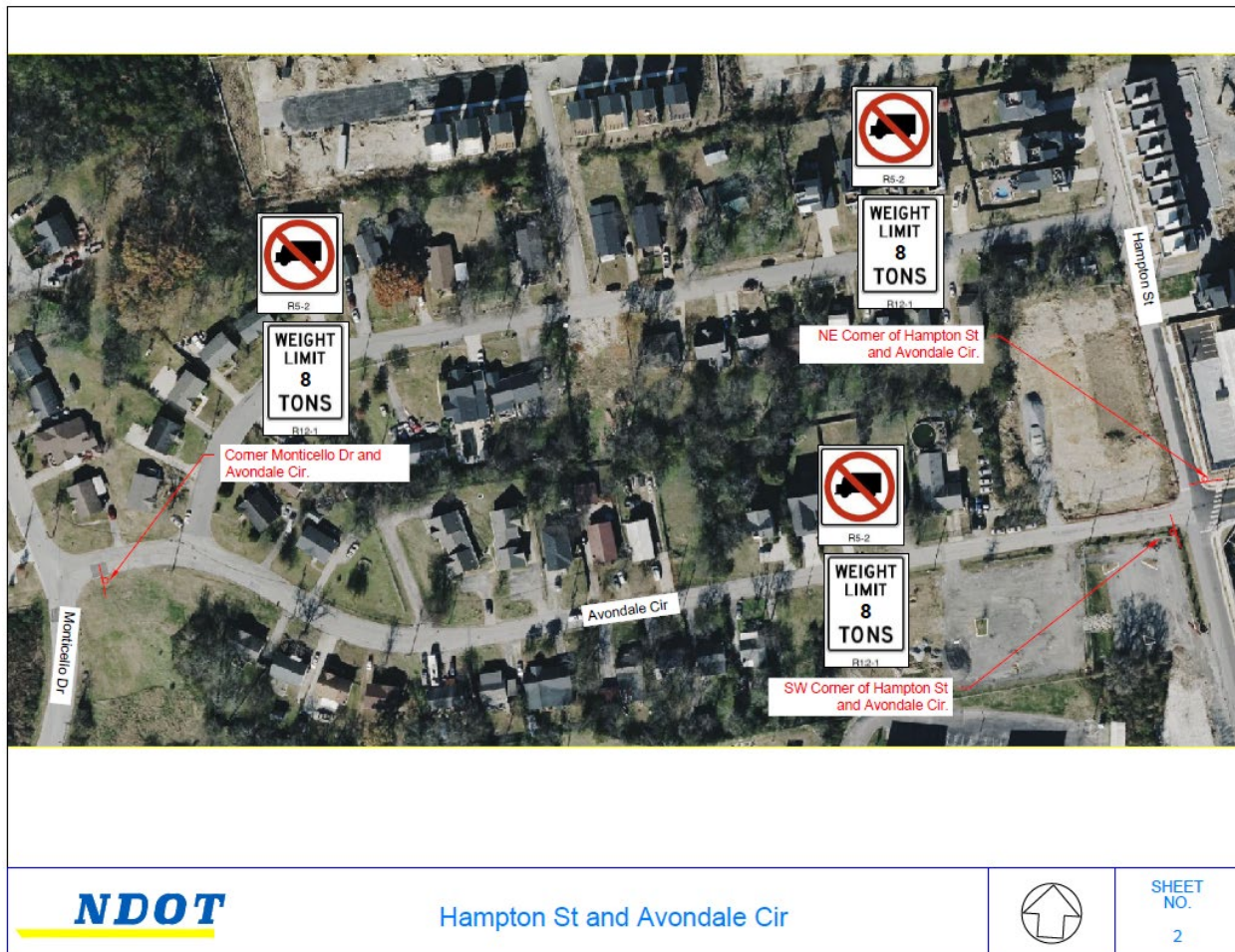




5.2 CD 02: Authorization of new vehicle size limit, no trucks over 8T on Hampton St from Avondale Cir to its terminus and also on Avondale Cir between Hampton St and Monticello Dr, requested by CM Toombs and NDOT.

Recommendation: Approval of new vehicle size restriction, No Trucks over 8 tons on Hampton St from Avondale Cir to its northern terminus and on Avondale Cir between Hampton St and Monticello Dr.

Analysis: CM Toombs has requested signage to prohibit tractor-trailer vehicles in this neighborhood near Trinity Lane and Brick Church Pike. With the approval of this request, NDOT will install truck restriction signage to better enable MNPD enforcement in this neighborhood. NDOT recommends approval of this request.



Unfinished Business

7.1 Discussion of Metro Council Ordinance BL2025-1072 / proposal number 2025Z-013TX-001 related to sandwich board signage, requested by the Metro Nashville Planning Department.

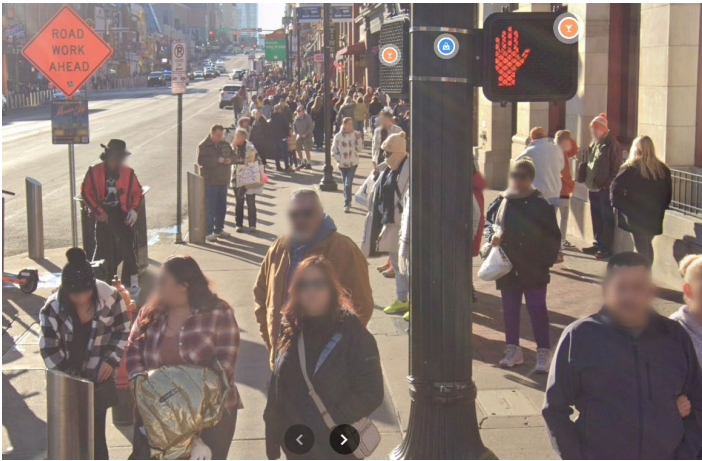
Commission Authority: Metropolitan Charter § 11.905: “Where a proposed ordinance affects traffic control or the use of streets by traffic and is not accompanied at introduction by a favorable recommendation of the traffic and parking commission, a copy thereof shall be promptly delivered by the metropolitan clerk to the commission and the same shall not be passed on second reading until the recommendation of said commission with respect to the proposal has been received, or thirty (30) days have elapsed without such recommendation. No ordinance which affects traffic control or the use of streets by traffic and which has been disapproved by the commission shall be finally passed or become effective unless it shall have been adopted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the whole membership of the metropolitan council and also then be approved by the metropolitan mayor with a three-fourths majority of the whole membership of the metropolitan council required to override a veto.”

Recommendation: This item was deferred from the November meeting at the request of CM Huffman. BL2025-1072 has since been deferred to the 1/20/26 council meeting, and this item is presented for discussion only. NDOT does not support BL2025-1072, as currently drafted. See BL2025-1072, attached hereto. NDOT supports a proposed substitute ordinance, which will be provided separately to the Commission prior to the December meeting.

Analysis: NDOT finds that BL2025-1072 as currently drafted would have a negative effect on public safety, especially in terms of urban walkability. In 2023, this Commission and downtown stakeholders spent many hours developing new regulations for sidewalk vending, due to the hazards posed by vending stands placed on the sidewalks in the downtown area. Many areas of downtown Nashville have sidewalks that are already insufficiently wide for pedestrian demand. Adding more sandwich boards does not increase pedestrian safety, rather, it reduces safety.

Metro Code Section 13.08.040.A. prohibits the placement of “...temporary stands in the public right-of-way for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any goods, foods, wares, merchandise, or products of any kind....” Currently, BL2025-1072 would allow sandwich boards to be placed in the public right-of-way, in direct contradiction to the street vending ordinance and regulations, and create a hazard for pedestrians, not only in the downtown area but throughout the entire county.

Additionally, Metro Code Section 13.32.100 prohibits “rocks, wood, lumber, abandoned property” and “other obstruction[s]” aside from “legally parked motor vehicles” from remaining on “the public square or any street, public right of way, sidewalk, or alley.” Under section 13.32.105 MNPd, NFD, and NDOT may remove obstructions and impound or dispose of them. Public agencies have an essential role in promoting pedestrian safety, which can only be furthered by keeping the public sidewalks clear of obstacles and other tripping hazards, including the proposed sandwich boards.



However, NDOT does support the proposed substitute ordinance (to follow under separate cover) because it will mirror Metro Code Section 13.08.040. Pursuant to the proposed substitute ordinance, sandwich boards will be prohibited in the public right-of-way in the same areas that street vendors are prohibited and will create a permitting scheme for sandwich boards in other locations, to be approved by this Commission and enforced by NDOT. This will allow NDOT to monitor public safety and remove any hazards in the public right-of-way.