



DMI Director's Report – November 2023

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community:

- The October edition of the DMI Advocacy Update featured Deputy Mayor and DMI Board Member Linda Vakunta: [DMI October Advocacy Update](#)
- DMI hosted several events in the last month including a What's Up Downtown Breakfast with Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Vice President Kevin Little ([DMI October What's Up Downtown Breakfast](#)), a MSN+MKE Downtown Exchange discussing the importance of institutes of higher education to the Madison and Milwaukee Downtowns ([October MSN+MKE Downtown Exchange](#)), and a New Member Coffee in early November.
- DMI hired two new Policy Researchers from UW, Madeline Setliff and Luis Navarrette.
- DMI made several updates to our website including improving the DMI Downtown Development Tracker. The Tracker now has enhanced search capabilities.
- Jason attended the Rotary Large Club Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on behalf of the Rotary Club of Madison.

DMI Media Mentions:

- November 11 - WKOW – [Madison Economy Linked to Health of Lakes, Business and Environmental Groups Say](#)
- November 17 – Wisconsin State Journal - [State Street's Next Big Change? Hovde Properties Aims to Raze Buildings by Capitol Square](#)

Presentations:

- Jason participated in an International Downtown Association (IDA) panel discussion on strategic planning.

Economic Development:

- DMI attended the Capitol East Business Association's (CEBA) Board meeting. DMI and CEBA are working on ways to work more closely together.
- DMI also attended and helped facilitate a meeting of the new Washington East Business Arts Corridor (WEBAC). WEBAC is working on bringing the Cap East arts organizations and businesses together to form a stronger arts corridor.
- The DMI Economic Development Committee met twice over the last month. In October, during a joint meeting with the DMI Government Relations Committee, EDC hosted Interim Superintendent Lisa Kvistad to discuss MMSD. In November, EDC hosted a panel discussion on the current state of commercial banking and Downtown Madison with Old National Banks, and DMI Board Member, Traci Mann, and Jeff Schleis from Lake Ridge Bank.

Membership Development:

Axley Attorneys	Nicole Hadaway	www.axley.com
DLC	Dan LaCloche	https://www.thedlceffect.com/
McDonald Schaefer	Dave Malone	https://mcdonaldschaefer.com/
Novii CPA	Victoria Thayer	https://noviicpa.com/
SMART SPACES	Stephanie Gander	https://smartspaceswi.com/
Village Green - EO Madison Yards Apartments	Kevin Krause	https://www.eomadisonyards.com/

Transportation:

- The DMI Transportation Committee met twice over the last five weeks. At their October meeting, the Committee discussed all things bikes, with presentations/updates from Madison B-Cycle, Madison Bikes, and the City of Madison's Pedestrian/Bike team. At their December meeting, Metro Transit's Mike Cechvala presented on the City's plan for the new potential north/south Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. Mike also discussed the construction schedule for the east/west lines Capitol Square and State Street stations.
- Jason attended the Dane County Regional Airport's press conference announcing start of service for Breeze Airways. Breeze will start flying direct flights to Orlando and Tampa starting in February of 2024.

Quality of Life:

- The DMI Quality of Life Committee met with Madison Police Department Central Precinct Captain Mike Hanson. Captain Hanson updated the Committee on several Downtown safety issues and several projects MPD is working on with DMI. Here is a video of the meeting: [DMI October Quality of Life Meeting](#).

Inclusiveness:

- DMI hosted the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable's (MADR) October meeting. The topic of discussion was strategies helping us cope with work.
- The Beyond Compliance Task Force met to discuss their Streatery video work and decide on their next project.
- The DMI Inclusiveness Committee's reading club hosted two screenings of the Killers of the Flower Moon.

Government Relations:

- Along with co-hosting Interim Superintendent Lisa Kvistad with the Economic Development Committee, Government Relations hosted Jason Stein, Wisconsin Policy Forum's Vice President, and Research Director to discuss their annual City of Madison Budget Brief. Here is a recording of the presentation: [DMI November Government Relations Committee Meeting](#).

For questions and more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or jilstrup@downtownmadison.org.