



## DMI Director's Report – May 2024

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

### Creating Connections and Community:

- DMI hosted several events in April including a What's Up Downtown Breakfast with UW Athletics Director Chris McIntosh, a New Member Coffee, and a Behind the Scenes at the Black Business Hub.
- DMI also hosted our April Advocacy Update with guest Kim Jones, Airport Director, Dane County Regional Airport.
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGZ5\\_aeGc1E&t=591s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGZ5_aeGc1E&t=591s)
- We also hosted a Downtown Happenings Podcast with Brandi Grayson, Founder and CEO of Urban Triage.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzf4Wo8cAaM>
- Jason attended the International Downtown Association Board Retreat in Memphis in late April and early May.

### DMI Media Mentions:

- April 24 – WMTV – Good News Madison Series (Commercials) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhOyeMzkyMc>
- April 28 – WMTV - [Co-owner of Nick's Reflects Ahead of Next Week's Closure](#)
- April 29 – Dane County Regional Airport – Terminal expansion press conference.
- April 30 – The Badger Herald - [Survey Released to Gauge Student Feelings on Housing Market](#)
- May 8 – WISC – State Street ribbon tying event.
- May 10 – WisBusiness - [Voyageur Extended Stays Announces the Grand Opening of the Medallion, a Boutique Aparthotel](#)

### Presentations:

- Jason emceed the Affordable Dental Care Sparkles and Smiles event.
- Jason presented on the progress of the Student Affordable Housing Working Group to the City of Madison's Housing Strategy Committee. Jason and Bill Connors, Executive Director of Smart Growth Greater Madison, also presented the findings of our comparison of the approval process duration in the Greater-Madison area.
- Jason presented a DMI and Downtown Madison update to First United Methodist Church.

### Economic Development:

- The Economic Development Committee heard a presentation and discussed DMI and Smart Growth's recent research report: A Comparison of the Approval Process Durations in the Greater-Madison Area.

- The Student Affordable Housing Working Group hosted their fifth meeting. At the meeting the Group started the process of making recommendations to the City’s Housing Strategy Committee.

**Membership Development:**

- DMI hosted a Membership Development Committee meeting at EUA this month. The Committee also participated in a committee service project at Bikes for Kids Wisconsin.
- DMI welcomes several new members:

Annex Wealth Management	<a href="https://annexwealth.com/">https://annexwealth.com/</a>
Brandon Cox	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandon-cox-15782a1/">https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandon-cox-15782a1/</a>
Dane County Farmers' Market	<a href="https://dcfm.org/">https://dcfm.org/</a>
FairShare CSA Coalition	<a href="https://www.csacoalition.org/">https://www.csacoalition.org/</a>
Galway Companies, Inc.	<a href="http://www.galwaycompanies.com">www.galwaycompanies.com</a>
Lindenwood Financial LLC	<a href="https://www.lindenwoodfinancial.com/">https://www.lindenwoodfinancial.com/</a>
Make Music Madison, Inc.	<a href="http://www.makemusicmadison.org">www.makemusicmadison.org</a>
Orange Shoe Personal Fitness	<a href="http://www.orangeshoe.com">www.orangeshoe.com</a>
Riley Construction	<a href="http://www.rileycon.com">www.rileycon.com</a>
Susan Sutton Homes	<a href="https://susansuttonhomes.com/">https://susansuttonhomes.com/</a>

**Transportation:**

- The Transportation Committee met to hear updates from partners organizations and a presentation from Clark Johnson on a pilot/test intracity rail project.
- Jason and Morgan Ramaker Klass attended, as members, the City of Madison’s quarterly Vision Zero stakeholder group meeting.

**Quality of Life:**

- The Quality of Life Committee met in April to hear updates from their partner organizations and a presentation from Spencer Stanbery, the Event Director of Jazz at Five.
- DMI worked with two UW student run capstone projects this semester. One set of students from the School of Engineering planned for the new tunnel underneath John Nolen Drive connecting Brittingham Park to Lake Monona. Another set of students from the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture redesigned State Street, particularly the 400 to 600 blocks, now free of bus traffic.
- DMI and Catholic Charities hosted their quarterly meeting of the Homelessness Issues Committee.

**Inclusiveness:**

- DMI hosted the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR) meeting in April. The meeting included a presentation and discussion with UW Professor Markus Brauer, Executive Director of the Institute for Diversity Science.
- The Beyond Compliance Task Force is wrapping up their training video work for the Streatery program. The videos should be released in the next few weeks.

**Government Relations:**

- The DMI Government Relations Committee heard a presentation from MMSD Board of Education President Nichelle Nichols.

For questions and more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or [jilstrup@downtownmadison.org](mailto:jilstrup@downtownmadison.org).