



## DMI Director's Report – March 2025

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

### Creating Connections and Community

- DMI welcomed Dane County Executive Melissa Agard to the first What's Up Downtown Breakfast for 2025.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRVleSBP7uM&t=961s>
- The February edition of the DMI Advocacy Update featured a discussion on UW and student enrollment with Derek Kindle, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwkejuQQulA&t=1823s>
- DMI and Milwaukee Downtown hosted our first MSN+MKE Downtown Exchange for 2025. The program featured a discussion on Federal policy and why it's important to Downtown Madison and Milwaukee.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OfyU3-mjh0&t=1494s>
- DMI hosted two Downtown Madison Happening's Podcasts this month:
  - Tracy Anderson from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN5bXr8wg5M&t=2s>
  - Aissa Olivarez and Grant Sovern, Community Immigration Law Center (CILC): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLialBUmr-4>

### DMI Media Mentions:

- February 27 – WKOW - [Alliant Energy Center to Get Renovation, Expansion Beginning as Soon as Next Year](#)
- February 27 – WKOW - [Flights to Mexico and Canada? Dane County Regional Airport Aspires to Go International](#)
- February 27 – WMTV - [Dane County Executive Announces Two Large Scale Madison Area Projects](#)
- February 28 – Wisconsin State Journal - [The Dane County International Airport? Melissa Agard Seeks to Upgrade Designation for MSN](#)

### Presentations:

- Jason and Heather presented a DMI and Downtown Madison update presentation to the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce ambassadors.
- Jason spoke to the StartingBlock Board of Directors about the current state of Downtown Madison.

### Economic Development:

- The DMI Economic Development Committee hosted a joint meeting with the Quality of Life and Beyond Compliance Committee’s to discuss accessibility in affordable housing:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WK8iEE3MI50&t=13s>
- The Regent Street Group met to discuss edits to the Regent Street visioning work. Leaders from the Group also met with officials from the City of Madison to discuss the draft vision.
- DMI assisted in hosting the first ever meeting of the Regent Street Business Association.
- Jason continues to participate in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

**Membership Development:**

- DMI welcomed several new members:

K. Singh & Associates, Inc.	<a href="http://www.ksinghengineering.com">www.ksinghengineering.com</a>
M&M Office Interiors	<a href="https://mmoffice.com/">https://mmoffice.com/</a>
SumSet Valuation Group	<a href="https://sumsetvaluationgroup.com/">https://sumsetvaluationgroup.com/</a>

**Transportation:**

- The DMI Transportation Committee met and hosted a presentation from WisDOT Southwest Region Director Dan Schave: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTMuvb0hK-0>
- Jason continued to participate in the City of Madison’s Vision Zero Stakeholder Task Force.

**Quality of Life:**

- The DMI and Catholic Charities Homelessness Issues Committee met and heard updates from service provider organizations.

**Inclusiveness:**

- DMI hosted the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR) meeting in February.

**Beyond Compliance:**

- The Beyond Compliance Sub-Committee met to discuss their joint meeting on accessible affordable housing with the DMI Economic Development and Quality of Life Committees.

**Government Relations:**

- DMI’s Government Relations Committee met to make their Madison City Council endorsement recommendations to the DMI Board of Directors.

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