



DMI Director's Report – March 2026

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community:

- DMI hosted our second What's Up Downtown Breakfast of the year in January. Mark Papko, Executive Director of the Dane County Regional Airport, spoke on What's New and What's Next at the Airport:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvCRL1aws18>
- Andrew Goldberg joined the December DMI Advocacy Update and discussed the International Downtown Association's (IDA) Federal lobbying efforts and why they are important for downtowns across the country:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCFh0vLXMNg&t=500s>

DMI Media Mentions:

- March 1 – InBusiness Magazine - [Clear for Takeoff: Mark Papko Pilots the Airport at a Key Time](#)

Presentations:

- Jason participated in the Upper House's *Up Words* podcast with Peter Tan from Strang.
- Jason moderated a downtown advocacy webinar for the International Downtown Association, featuring leaders from Hartford, San Jose, and Denver.
- Jason joined leaders from the City's Planning Division to present on Envision Downtown Madison to the City's Disability Rights Commission.

Economic Development:

- The Economic Development Committee received a 2025 State of the Downtown presentation during its February meeting.
- DMI hosted a Regent Street Group meeting focused on the Regent Street reconstruction project. The City provided an update on the preferred alternative, followed by a discussion about how it aligns with the Regent Street vision.

Membership Development:

- The Membership Development Committee met at Atmosphere Commercial Interiors in February.
- DMI welcomed several new members, including:

114 State Street LLC	https://114statestreetmadison.godaddysites.com/
Accessible Housing WI	https://www.accessiblehousingwi.com/
Idea to Market.com	www.ideatomarket.com
WPS-A Health Solutions Company	www.wpshealthsolutions.com

Transportation

- The DMI Transportation Committee met in February to hear a presentation on Envision Downtown Madison and provide feedback.
- The City of Madison released an updated preferred alternative for the Regent Street reconstruction project.

Quality of Life

- DMI and Catholic Charities co-hosted the quarterly Homelessness Issues Committee meeting in February. Approximately a dozen organizations provided updates.

Beyond Compliance

- The Beyond Compliance Sub-Committee will meet later in March.

Government Relations

- The DMI Government Relations Committee recommended candidates to the DMI Board for endorsement.

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