

August 1, 2019

Attn Zoning and Planning Committee Councilmembers:

Jeremy Schroeder

Kevin Reich

Cam Gordon

Jeremiah Ellison

Lisa Goodman

Lisa Bender

The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACOPD) is writing in response to the proposed City of Minneapolis' Zoning Code Amendment to ban development of future drive-through facilities in the remaining six zoning districts.

In its current iteration, MACOPD opposes the amendment in its lack of attention to accessibility and how it impacts the lives of people with disabilities. The primary concern is the decrease of access to goods and services which drive-through facilities provide for people with disabilities. We seek a resolution to include additional accessibility provisions, to the amendment, to maintain access for commercial facilities that would normally operate drive-throughs.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities and ensuring access to goods, services and activities. The ADA requires public agencies and private businesses to remove physical, communication, policy and programmatic barriers.

With the proposed amendment, MACOPD recommends the obligation of making those goods and services available and accessible stay paramount. This not only benefits people with disabilities but other groups such as parents, seniors and veterans. Drive-through facilities are an access point for people with assistive vehicles, parents, seniors, and veterans to receive goods and services. It is imperative the City and commercial businesses retain a level of access that was provided by drive-through facilities.

New technology and practices have improved access to goods and services; however, it is still a necessity to advocate for barrier removal and equitable access. We recommend additional provisions be included for commercial businesses (who typically provide drive-through services) include alternative accessible strategies and operations in place of drive-through facilities; such as curbside services. Additionally, MACOPD recommends ATM facilities be removed from the definition of drive-through facilities and treated separately so that a minimum level of access can be provided city-wide by ATM drive-throughs.

MACOPD serves as a resource to the Mayor, City Council and City departments to ensure proactive and holistic planning is in place to increase accessibility for all persons. The Transportation Network Company ordinance, accessible Taxi Cab program, Peavey Plaza renovation, and Target Center are examples of our collective work. The committee is a willing partner and seeks creative solutions to making Minneapolis a world class and inclusive city.

Sincerely,

Ken Rodgers, Chair

Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities

City of Minneapolis

105 5th Avenue South, Room 425

Minneapolis, MN 55401