

## Resolution 2024-35

### Observing “Week Without Driving” on September 30-October 6, 2024

- Whereas,** Mobility is a fundamental part of life for Middleton residents, connecting them to the community, allowing them to visit friends and family, and helping them to reach places of employment, education, medical services, shopping, recreation, and more; and
- Whereas,** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated the average cost of owning a car to be \$11,450 per year in 2022, with car ownership becoming less and less affordable for many Middleton residents; and
- Whereas,** Non-drivers in Middleton make up an estimated 30-40% of our population and include aging adults, students, low-income individuals, those with physical, mental, or intellectual/developmental disabilities, and those who cannot or prefer not to drive; and
- Whereas,** Our society’s decades-long reliance on cars has made the construction and maintenance of streets the focus of municipal spending on transportation, with comparatively little investment made in improving sidewalks, multi-purpose paths and trails, and public transit; and
- Whereas,** In adopting a “Complete Streets” policy in 2022, the Common Council committed to developing a safe, comfortable, reliable, efficient, integrated, and connected multimodal transportation network that is accessible to all users, regardless of age, ability, income, or access to personal vehicles; and
- Whereas,** The Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2023 calls for 1) the design and operations of the entire road right-of-way to balance the safety and convenience of all road users regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation, and 2) creating conditions that help transit become the preferred mode of travel for trips that are not made by walking, bicycling, or using other micromobility solutions; and
- Whereas,** “Week Without Driving” has become a national challenge designed to bring more awareness and understanding to leaders and the general public about how the lack of adequate transportation can impact people’s ability to work, access education and childcare, see doctors, make it to appointments, and procure goods, services, recreation, and entertainment; and
- Whereas,** Going a week without driving is a great way to see first-hand how well the design and operation of our current transportation system meets the needs of our neighbors who don’t drive cars; now therefore be it
- Resolved,** that I, Mayor Emily Kuhn, do hereby declare September 30-October 6, 2025, to be “Week Without Driving” in Middleton; and be it further
- Resolved,** that all elected officials; appointed members of committees, commissions, and boards; and people who work or live in Middleton and typically drive cars are hereby encouraged to participate in this week of learning and observation by taking all, some, or even just one of their trips without a car during the week.