



# MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
To: City of Madison Heights City Council  
From: Matt Lonnerstater, AICP – City Planner  
Subject: Zoning Text Amendment (24-02) – Use Specific Standards related to Detached One-Family Dwellings (Driveways) – Second Reading

## Introduction

Madison Heights City Council adopted the new Zoning Ordinance on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Since going into effect, staff has encountered several ordinance sections that could benefit from clarification or refinement:

- **Section 7.03.10 – Use Specific Standards related to Detached One-Family Dwellings (Driveways) [Addressed in this Memo]**
- Section 7.03.43 – Use Specific Standards related to Temporary Uses
- Section 8.03 – Accessory Buildings, Structures, and Uses
- Sections 12.06 and 12.07 - Signs

This memo addresses proposed text amendments to Section 7.03.10– Use Specific Standards related to Detached One-Family Dwellings – pertaining to the width and design of residential driveways. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed text amendment at their September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting.

## Background and Proposed Amendments

Current ordinance language restricts the overall width of a residential driveway to the width (outer edges) of the garage door. Since the adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance, staff has received several requests for slightly wider driveways to accommodate larger vehicles and provide the ability to step out from a vehicle without stepping onto grass.

The intent of the existing driveway width limitation is to ensure that front yards are not completely inundated with pavement, which can lead to poor pedestrian environments and unsightly appearances. The existing ordinance language limits the width of a driveway at the property line to 12 feet for detached garages and 20 feet for attached garages but allows a driveway to taper/widen to the outer edges of the garage door. Staff acknowledges that a modest additional width beyond the edges of the garage door (staff proposes 18 inches) would allow for the storage of larger vehicles and provide for a paved area in which to step out from the vehicle without compromising the general intent of the width limitation.

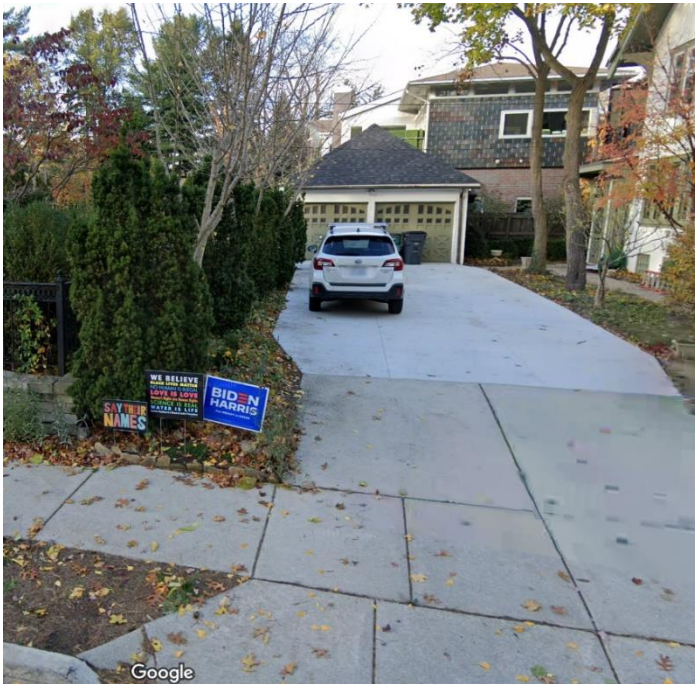
*Wide Driveways*



*Wide driveways, especially at the front property line, create unsafe environments for pedestrians and may detract from the appearance and character of a residential neighborhood.*

The proposed language explains where and how a taper can begin on a property and clarifies that driveways cannot be located directly in front of the main residential portion of the structure, with certain exceptions.

*Limited Width Driveways with Tapers*



*Both of these driveways have limited widths at the front property line, but taper/widen to a point approximately eighteen (18") inches beyond the outer edges of the garage door.*

**Previous Action**

At their September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended approval of the proposed text amendment, as written. Draft minutes from this meeting are attached.

At their October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, City Council approved the first reading of ZTA 24-02.

**Next Step**

Based on the Planning Commission’s recommendation, staff recommends that City Council approve and adopt ordinance #2023 (ZTA 24-02) upon second reading.