

MODIFYING Chapter 723, “Streets and Sidewalks, Use Regulations,” by **ORDAINING** new Section 723-91, “Trespass in a Transit Center Zone,” and by **AMENDING** Section 723-26, “Designated Transit Zone,” to promote the safe and efficient operation of the regional transit system in the public right-of-way.

WHEREAS, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (“SORTA”) operates transit centers in the City of Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, the City and SORTA have a strong interest in promoting and protecting the safety and welfare of the traveling public by designating areas for transit centers for the exclusive use of transit passengers; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to provide for the designation of transit center zones and to ensure these zones promote the safe and efficient operation of the transit system; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That new Section 723-91, “Trespass in a Transit Center Zone,” of Chapter 723, “Streets and Sidewalks, Use Regulations,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code is hereby ordained to read as follows:

Sec. 723-91. – Trespass in a Transit Center Zone.

No person shall enter or remain upon, occupy, or use a designated transit center zone established pursuant to Section 723-26 of this Chapter for purposes other than boarding or deboarding a transit vehicle, waiting for a transit vehicle, or purchasing a fare. A person is in violation of this section only after having occupied a transit center zone for a period of time that exceeds that which is necessary to purchase a fare and to wait for, board, or deboard a transit vehicle. It shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section if a person remains in a designated transit center zone after all transit vehicles stop and the person does not board any of the transit vehicles.

A person violating this section shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$150.

Section 2. That existing Section 723-26, “Designated Transit Zones,” of Chapter 723, “Streets and Sidewalks, Use Regulations,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 723-26. - Designated Transit Zones.

- (a) Streetcar Transit Zones. The Director of the Department of Transportation and Engineering may designate a streetcar station platform located in the public right-of-way as a designated streetcar transit zone, which area shall be accessible exclusively by persons for the limited purposes of boarding or deboarding a Cincinnati streetcar vehicle, waiting to board a Cincinnati streetcar vehicle, or purchasing a fare. Designated streetcar transit zones shall be clearly marked and contain readily visible signage indicating “Streetcar Transit Zone” or other similar notification.
- (b) Bus Rapid Transit Zones. The Director of the Department of Transportation and Engineering may designate a bus rapid transit station platform located in the public right-of-way as a designated bus rapid transit zone, which area shall be accessible exclusively by persons for the limited purposes of boarding or deboarding a bus rapid transit vehicle, waiting to board a bus rapid transit vehicle, or purchasing a fare. Designated bus rapid transit zones shall be clearly marked and contain readily visible signage indicating “Bus Rapid Transit Zone” or other similar notification.
- (c) Transit Center Zones. The Director of the Department of Transportation and Engineering may designate a transit center, being a large facility, that is a convergence point for multiple transit routes, located in the public right-of-way and separated from the pedestrian public, as a transit center zone, which area shall be accessible exclusively by persons for the limited purposes of boarding or deboarding a transit vehicle, waiting to board a transit vehicle, or purchasing a fare. Designated transit center zones shall be clearly marked and contain readily visible signage indicating “Transit Center Zone” or other similar notification.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Additions indicated by underline; Deletions indicated by strikethrough.