

Transportation Innovation Zone (TIZ) Ordinance

For more than a century, Detroit has been at the center of mobility innovation and opportunity. Now, the very nature of mobility and is changing. In order for Detroit to remain at the forefront of mobility innovation, it needs a TIZ to create an environment for this innovation to occur and to safely explore and approve new technologies that can deliver modern mobility solutions for all Detroiters.

What is the TIZ?

- The TIZ is a designated area for the City to implement an updated process to review and approve permits for new technologies to ensure they can safely deploy in City streets.
- By starting with a designated area, the City can maximize community engagement and champion technologies aimed to solve problems for residents and small businesses.

What problems are being solved by the creation of the TIZ?

- The City of Detroit's existing permitting process is obsolete and unnavigable to innovators looking to launch or pilot new technologies in Detroit.
- If no updates are made, the current permitting process perpetuates an uneven playing field between large corporations that have the resources to navigate that process and smaller (and less resourced) businesses that do not.

ILLUSTRATION: A solar-powered digital kiosk technology pilot that could display transit schedules at bus stops. Existing processes called for multiple permits from different departments at the rate of several hundred dollars per day. The process contemplates construction or utility firms seeking to occupy the right of way. For a small company piloting a less intrusive installation, those processes and costs are prohibitive.

- Delays, burdens, and excessive costs can make the difference between a company succeeding in Detroit — or coming to Detroit at all.

How does the TIZ solve these problems/how will it work?

- The TIZ centralizes the fractured permitting process. Rather than applying for permits with several departments, companies would fill out a single application with the City's Chief of Mobility Innovation.
- It **does not** create any new permit types or circumvent any existing permitting steps or requirements. OPPI instead puts the burden of navigating those steps and requirements on OMI rather than on innovators.
- The Chief/Office of Mobility Innovation (OMI) would then coordinate between the relevant departments, including the Office of Disability Affairs, to issue a temporary permit if the project meets safety standards.

How does this benefit Detroit's economy?

- The TIZ extends the hand of partnership to emerging local companies and welcomes new ones. This will help diversify the local mobility and tech sectors and support companies developing, building, and growing in Detroit.
- An accessible, one-stop shop permitting process will reduce the time it takes to obtain permits (assuming all requirements have been met). This is a game changer for small companies in these burgeoning industries.
- For Detroit to continue as the world capital of mobility, the City must encourage innovation by lowering barriers to entry with modernized processes.
- Lessons learned from the TIZ could inform other potential updates to the City's ordinances, to the benefit of areas outside the TIZ.

How does this benefit Detroit's residents and small businesses?

- Innovators develop technologies designed to solve problems for residents and businesses and can bring those solutions to Detroiters and Detroit's small businesses.
- The TIZ will support the development and deployment of these technologies by reviewing and approving them under a process designed with innovation in mind.
- The TIZ will give the City greater and more direct control over deployments to ensure safety and the ability to revoke TIZ permits as needed.

What does this have to do with Michigan Central?

- Michigan Central, LLC is leading the build-out of an open innovation platform focused on economic development and mobility innovation. It is not merely some extension of Ford; it is building the platform for new companies to start and grow in Detroit.
- Michigan Central is in conversations with more than 40 companies representing the potential to create hundreds of jobs for Detroiters. Those companies have expressed how critical the TIZ would be in their decision to potentially relocate and invest in Detroit.
- Nothing about the TIZ will give Ford or Michigan Central standing authority to deploy technology. Any Ford or Michigan Central-affiliated company will need to seek the same approvals as any other company.

What kinds of technology will be tested here?

- Recent examples of pilots that have occurred in Detroit include:
 - An e-scooter docking station pilot by [Kuhmute](#) (located at IBEW local 58)
 - A community-based EV carsharing pilot by [Sway Mobility](#) (located at IBEW local 58)
 - An autonomous robotic delivery pilot by [Kiwibot](#) (partnered with local Corktown restaurants)
 - A digital local transit information board by [Soofa](#) (located at The Factory building in Corktown)