

CITY OF MANKATO PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the City has prepared an ordinance providing authority for the management of pedestrian corridors within the City of Mankato.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Mankato that Mankato City Code Section 6.20 be and hereby is established as follows:

Sec. 6.20. Pedestrian Corridor Management.

Subd. 1. Findings and Purpose. The City Council finds that:

- A. The Mankato pedestrian corridor is a public pedestrian corridor system integrated into the larger downtown transportation system.
- B. The pedestrian corridor system supports economic vitality downtown and allows people to navigate throughout the downtown area in all weather conditions while affording developers opportunities to provide retail, service, housing, hotel, and office space abutting to or accessed from the pedestrian corridor system.
- C. The pedestrian corridor system supports connection from and use of parking, parking ramps, shops, hotels, office space, the Downtown Pedestrian Corridor area, and residences.
- D. Many of the skyways within the pedestrian corridor systems are temperature controlled and have a financial cost to the public associated with heating the corridor.
- E. The City Council finds that regulation of conduct in public pedestrian corridor systems over, across, and above City rights-of-way, is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Subd. 2. Definitions. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- A. Abandoned Property.** Personal property that is left unattended in a pedestrian corridor and:
 - (i) ownership of which, upon discovery and after reasonable attempts by City Manager or City Manager designee, cannot be determined; or
 - (ii) the property was left for more than 24 continuous hours; or
 - (iii) the property was left in a manner that interferes with pedestrian traffic.
- B. Downtown Pedestrian Corridor.** Downtown Pedestrian Corridor is defined as the area bounded by Riverfront Drive to the west; East Main Street to the north; Second Street to the east; Warren Street to the south and the parking ramps servicing the Downtown Pedestrian Corridor area and enabling pedestrian traffic flow through the Pedestrian corridor.
- C. Litter.** Litter shall mean to throw, deposit, discard or place or cause to be thrown, deposited, discarded, or placed upon or within any surface other than a designated trash receptacle any glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, cans, garbage, swill, papers, refuse, offal, trash, or rubbish.
- D. Pedestrian corridor.** A corridor system for pedestrian traffic flow that includes enclosed, often times temperature-controlled structures, commonly known as skyways or pedestrian bridges, located over, across, or above the public right-of-way, and in some instances above private property, intended for pedestrian traffic circulation, and also including those accessory areas or structures connecting to or providing access for public pedestrian traffic circulation through either the elevated above ground structures or to the Downtown Pedestrian Corridor. The term shall include public

pedestrian bridges or skyways that are currently in existence as well as those built after the date of this ordinance. For purposes of this section, the PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR shall include (i) bus shelters and parking ramps supporting the Downtown Pedestrian Corridor; (ii) stairways, stairwells, escalators, or elevators leading from or into public pedestrian bridges or skyways from private buildings or from other public areas, and (iii) areas under stairs and escalators leading to and connecting concourse corridors, in addition to stairs, elevators, and escalators connecting the concourse corridors to public streets or other public property.

E. Security Personnel. For purposes of this ordinance, security personnel include individuals hired by the private property owners of properties located within the Downtown Pedestrian Corridor and adjoining to a skyway, including individuals hired as night watch people, whom, pursuant to this Ordinance, may enforce the hours of operation of the Skyways.

F. Skyway. Enclosed structures, oftentimes temperature-controlled, and commonly known as skyways or pedestrian bridges, located over, across, or above the public right-of-way, and in some instances above private property, intended for pedestrian traffic circulation.

Subd. 3. Prohibited Acts. No person shall commit any of the following acts within the pedestrian corridor. If an impediment or obstruction is caused by the size of a particular group of people, all persons within the group shall be equally subject to this chapter.

A. Lie in or upon any portion of the pedestrian corridor, as that term is defined herein.

B. Sit or stand or place an object in a manner that blocks, hinders or obstructs the free passage of pedestrians where signage has been posted related to ensuring pedestrian flow in the corridor system or after having been first warned by the City Manager or City Manager's designee of the prohibitions in this section and requested by the same to move or relocate so as to ensure pedestrian flow in the corridor system.

C. Stand on any seat, railing, ledge, or other fixture.

D. Engage in disorderly conduct.

E. Operate any sound amplification device above the level of conversational speech.

F. Use skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, bicycles, scooters, or similar devices, except mobility assistance devices.

G. Bring any non-service animal into the pedestrian corridor, with the exception of police trained dogs accompanied by their handler.

H. Bring in shopping carts from the premises of retail establishments.

I. Litter or throw, deposit, discard, or cause any garbage, refuse, or rubbish to be thrown, deposited, or discarded upon or within any surface in the pedestrian corridor, unless the material is placed in a designated trash receptacle.

J. Prop open any locked doors or damage any door, lock, security system or remove any recording system.

K. Smoke, including vaping.

- L. Consume alcohol, ingest, or use THC or Cannabis products, or carry open alcoholic containers.
- M. Urinate or defecate.
- N. Obstruct the free passage of others.
- O. Damage the pedestrian corridor or any of the fixtures.
- P. Place unpermitted art, markings, or drawings on the walls or fixtures of the pedestrian corridor system.

Subd. 4. Exemptions from Subd. 2. The following situations shall be exempt from the prohibitions of subdivision 2 herein, unless any such exemption creates and/or causes a hazardous condition or threatens public safety:

A. Medical emergency. A person or number of persons standing, sitting, or lying in or upon any public right-of-way because of a medical emergency are exempted from the prohibitions of subdivision 2 until the resolution of the medical emergency.

B. Permitted or sanctioned events. A person or number of persons standing, sitting, or lying in or upon any public right-of-way because they are attending a permitted or sanctioned event in the City, such as but not limited to parades, festivals, assemblies, or concerts are exempted from the prohibitions of subdivision 2 during their attendance at said event.

C. Government agents. An agent or agents of a government entity or a person or number of persons acting pursuant to authority or direction from a government agent are exempted from the prohibitions of subdivision 2.

Subd. 5. Hours of Operation. All sections of the skyway portion of the pedestrian corridor system shall be open to the public between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The City may post signs at all entrances to the skyway portion of the pedestrian corridor system. No person shall enter or remain within the skyway portion of the pedestrian corridor system outside of the hours of operation. The City Manager, City Manager's designee, or security personnel of adjoining properties may enforce these hours of operation.

A. Any alternate hours of operation will be conspicuously posted within five feet of the appropriate entrances and exits within the skyway portion of the pedestrian corridor.

Subd. 6. Posted Notice.

A. At the direction of the City Manager, the City may post, or cause to be posted, notice of the prohibitions of this Section in pedestrian corridors or skyways.

B. Said notice shall consist of signage notifying the public of the prohibitions of this Section and shall comply with the following requirements:

- i. The signage shall be in a font size readable to pedestrians traveling in the pedestrian corridor or skyway; and

- ii. The signage shall publish the prohibitions or a summary of the prohibitions of this Section and shall cite this section and, if applicable, any state laws.

Subd 7. Enforcement. The City Manager or a designee of City Manager shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. With respect to enforcement of hours of the skyway portion of the corridor system, security personnel of adjoining properties may also enforce the hours of operation.

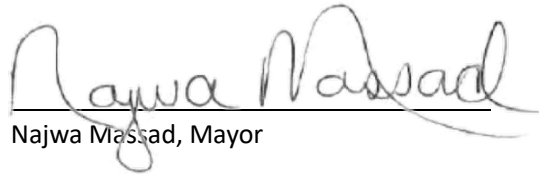
Subd.8. Abandoned Personal Property. Abandoned personal property, as that term is defined herein, will be confiscated under this section. Confiscated items that the City Manager or the City Manager’s designee deems have no apparent value or utility or are in unsanitary condition may be discarded immediately. Confiscated items that the City Manager or the City Manager’s designee deems have value or utility will be treated in the same manner as Unclaimed Property under Section 2.07 of the City Code. Confiscated weapons, drugs or stolen property will be given to law enforcement and retained pursuant to law enforcement policies.


Subd. 9. Penalties. Violations of this chapter are a misdemeanor offense. Nothing in this section shall preclude the enforcement of provisions of this chapter by an appropriate civil action, including seeking an administrative penalty for any violations of this chapter, or seeking to enjoin any continued violation.

Subd. 10. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

This Ordinance shall, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.14 and 5.06 of the Mankato City Charter, become effective thirty (30) days after publication of notice of its adoption.

Adopted this 26th day of June, 2023.


Najwa Massad, Mayor

Attest: 
Renae Kopischke, City Clerk, MMC