



# CITY OF APPLETON

## MEMORANDUM

**Date: October 1, 2024**

**To: Board of Health and Common Council**

**From: Charles E Sepers, Jr, PhD, MPH, Health Officer | Director**

**Subject: Proposed Update to City of Appleton Municipal Code 7-100 (d): Smoking Prohibition Around Valley Transit Center and Appleton Public Library**

---

The purpose of this memo is to propose an update to City of Appleton Municipal Code 7-100 (d), specifically to prohibit smoking around the Valley Transit Center and Appleton Public Library blocks.

Exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke is strongly linked to the development of chronic diseases, including cancer, worsened allergies, and childhood asthma. It also causes long-term respiratory and cardiovascular damage. In adults, secondhand smoke poses similar risks, particularly for those with preexisting conditions. According to the CDC, over 41,000 adults die annually in the U.S. due to secondhand smoke exposure. There is no risk-free level of exposure.

The newly redesigned Appleton Public Library and Valley Transit Center will attract increased patronage with enhanced program space and amenities. This provides an ideal opportunity to reassess how these spaces are used and to implement policies that protect the health and safety of patrons, including children and other vulnerable populations. To ensure safety, it's important to discourage gathering in areas where vehicles enter the library parking lot. Additionally, the new library features an outdoor children's programming space near Oneida Street, where there is significant bus traffic. Expanding the smoking ordinance would contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment for all visitors and reduce the risk of smoking-related illness. This proposal recommends combining subsections 7-100 (d)(2) and 7-100 (d)(3) of the City of Appleton Municipal Code and updating the smoking ordinance to restrict the entire Valley Transit Center and Appleton Public Library blocks. It also removes references to the Blue Parking Ramp, which no longer exists.

This change aligns with Wisconsin State Statute 101.123 (Act 12) and the City of Appleton's Health in All Policies (Sec. 7-201 (g)), which promotes "accessible built environments that enhance health and safety." It supports the City's broader commitment to creating healthy, smoke-free public spaces.

We respectfully request the Appleton Board of Health review and approve this proposed update to ensure a healthier environment for all community members.