R E S O L U T I O N
URGING STATE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW
FOR PARKLETS & PEDLETS ON CONNECTING HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, the City of Manitowoc's downtown is centered on and around South 8th Street, which is a connecting state highway, and contains many restaurants and retail establishments that desire an expanded outdoor presence but lack available space; and,

WHEREAS, communities, including Manitowoc, have found ways to allow businesses to erect and locate parklets and pedlets without compromising motor vehicle or pedestrian/ user safety, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic where businesses have reduced indoor capacity for employee and customer safety; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin communities have seen a strong, positive response to parklets and pedlets within downtowns prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation ("DOT") governs all state trunk highways and connecting highways within the State of Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, the DOT created a temporary parklet permit program for state trunk and connecting highways in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but did not continue this program into 2021; and,

WHEREAS, absent DOT approval, communities lack authority to permit parklets or pedlets on state trunk highways or connecting highways; and,

WHEREAS, the DOT is a state agency that relies on the Wisconsin State Legislature for oversight, funding and policy direction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Justin M. Nickels and the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc that the Wisconsin State Legislature be urged to direct the DOT to adopt a parklet and pedlet program that allows for the placement of parklets and pedlets on state trunk or connecting highways whenever they can be safely placed and whenever a municipality is willing to enforce appropriate safety regulations.

INTRODUCED _____   ADOPTED _____

_____ APPROVED_____
  Justin M. Nickels, Mayor