



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of the **SECOND READING** of Text Amendment 18.306 to reclassify auto washes from Principal Permitted Uses to Special Land Uses in the B-3 District, and to add use standards to be met by new Auto Wash establishments.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Development, Planning

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Over the last few years, there has been an increased interest by the development community seeking approval to build new auto washes in Novi.
- The City Council's Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) met to review possible Zoning Ordinance text amendments related to auto washes, with an interest in allowing greater discretion by the Planning Commission through the Special Land Use process, and subject to a number of use standards that would need to be met by new Auto Wash establishments.
- The ORC made a recommendation that the draft ordinance be forwarded to the City Council for approval to send to the Planning Commission for a public hearing and recommendation back to the City Council.
- On September 10, Planning Commission held the public hearing and recommended approval of the text amendment to City Council. On February 23, 2026, the City Council approved the First Reading with no modifications.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City Council's Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) met on April 21, 2025 and on June 23, 2025 to review possible text amendments to auto wash facilities as regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. During the April 21st ORC meeting, the Committee discussed the recent interest in the development of new auto washes. The current ordinance considers auto washes principal permitted uses only in the B-3, General Business District. The Committee asked staff and the City Attorney to work on an ordinance amendment and return to a subsequent ORC meeting.

At the June 23rd meeting, the Committee discussed a memo regarding trends and issues surrounding auto washes, a summary of the built and proposed auto wash facilities in the City of Novi, and draft ordinance language for consideration.

The Committee discussed the attached map that shows the locations of the existing and proposed auto washes in Novi. The white labels reference existing car washes, while the green labels note existing smaller car washes that are accessory to a gas station. The two yellow labels represent new auto washes that have been submitted for site plan review – both are on properties zoned B-3, so the use is currently principal permitted, or permitted as of right (*without* the discretion for approval that a Special Land Use would allow).

	Name	Location	Parcel size	Type	Status
1	Squeaky Shine	Novi Road	1.56 ac	Automatic tunnel	Opened 2020
2	Pure Wash	Meadowbrook /10 Mile	1.09 ac	Automatic tunnel	Opened 2024
3	Original \$6 Car Wash	Novi Road/Grand River	0.54 ac	Automatic tunnel	Proposed rebranding to El Car Wash in process – existing non-conforming in TC District
4	El Car Wash	Grand River/12 Mile	1.29 ac	Automatic tunnel	Under Construction
5	BP Gas Station	12 Mile/Novi Road	1.37 ac	Small automatic accessory use	Built 1991
6	Mobile Gas Station	Grand River/Haggerty	1.87 ac	Small automatic accessory use	Built 1987
7	Quick Pass	Novi Road/10 Mile	4.8 ac	Automatic tunnel	PC approved PSP
8	Grand/Beck Development	Grand River/Beck Road	3.7 ac	Automatic tunnel	PC approved Preliminary Site Plan

EXISTING ORDINANCE STANDARDS

In the City of Novi, Auto Washes are a principal permitted use only in the B-3 General Business District. There are no specific use standards in Section 4.32 except for the requirement that car washes shall be completely enclosed in a building. Otherwise,

car washes are expected to comply with the requirements of the B-3 District for building and parking setbacks, and building height (Section 3.1.12).

Section 3.10 contains Required Conditions for the B-1, B-2 and B-3 Districts, and states that overhead/service bay doors shall not face a major thoroughfare nor an abutting residential district. Car washes often must seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for this condition because of the long tunnel design typical of car wash buildings with entrance and exit door make it difficult to avoid having one overhead door facing the road.

Modern car washes often have outdoor vacuum stations as an accessory use, which does require an outdoor component. This should be addressed in any proposed text amendment.

PROPOSED DRAFT ORDINANCE

The text amendment as recommended for approval by the Planning Commission would change the use from Principal Permitted Use to the more discretionary Special Land Use in the B-3 District. This would not impact the smaller accessory car washes that are sometimes found at gas stations. The specific use standards in Section 4.32 are included in the draft text amendment in this packet, and summarized here:

1. Minimum lot size of 2 acres.
2. A 40-foot minimum front yard setback.
3. Minimum 100-foot setback from residential properties (includes building, vacuums, vehicle stacking).
4. All wash facilities shall be within enclosed building.
5. Outdoor vacuum stations shall not be in front yard, with noise controlled by sound barriers to meet noise performance standards (Section 5.14).
6. Overhead doors shall not face residential-zoned properties, or must be screened by another building or wall.
7. Vehicle stacking spaces shall be outside the public right-of-way and meet the drive-through requirements of Section 5.3.11.
8. By-pass lane (10-feet) required.
9. Overhead doors shall be oriented to face away from residentially-zoned or -used properties within 100 feet, unless screening is provided.
10. Auto washes approved by the Planning Commission prior to the adoption of this ordinance amendment shall be considered permitted under the ordinance standards at the time of approval.
11. Applicants shall be required to submit a plan for decommissioning and removal of the auto wash if the use ceases for a period of two years.

The draft ordinance language may be further modified as the City Council completes its reviews and approvals.

NON-CONFORMITIES CREATED

If the proposed text amendment is adopted as proposed, all of the existing car washes will become non-conforming with the new standard for a minimum lot size of two acres. Only one is on a parcel less than 1 acre – however this is the existing non-conforming car wash in the Town Center District. However, condition ten (10) states

that those auto washes that have been approved by the Planning Commission prior to the adoption of this ordinance shall be considered permitted under the standards in place at the time of that approval.

	Name	Location	Parcel size Conformance	Setback Conformance	Other Conformance
1	Squeaky Shine	Novi Road	No	Yes	Across Novi Road from residential, but greater than 100 feet
2	Pure Wash	Meadowbrook/10 Mile	No	Yes	
3	Original \$6 Car Wash	Novi Road/Grand River	No	Yes	Non-conforming in TC District
4	El Car Wash	Grand River/12 Mile	No	Yes	
5	Quick Pass	Novi Road/10 Mile	Yes	Yes	
6	Grand/Beck Development	Grand River/Beck Road	Yes	Yes	

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.306 to amend various sections of the Zoning Ordinance to reclassify auto washes from Principal Permitted Uses to Special Land Uses in the B-3 District, and to add use standards to be met by new Auto Wash establishments along with other minor changes, subject to further modifications as determined necessary by the City Manager's Office or City Attorney's Office. **SECOND READING**

This motion is made because the ordinance amendment addresses the increasing complexity of the features provided at auto wash facilities, and allows greater discretion by the Planning Commission because the use will be subject to Special Land Use consideration.

**CLEAN ORDINANCE
CAR WASHES
SECOND READING**

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF OAKLAND

CITY OF NOVI

ORDINANCE NO. 18.306

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, ZONING ORDINANCE, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.1.12 "B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT"; AND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4.32 "AUTO WASHES"; IN ORDER TO RECLASSIFY AUTO WASHES FROM PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES TO SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE B-3 DISTRICT, AND TO ADD USE STANDARDS TO BE MET BY NEW AUTO WASH ESTABLISHMENTS; AND ARTICLE 5, "SITE STANDARDS," SECTION 5.3, "OFF-STREET STACKING SPACE, LAYOUT STANDARDS, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE," TO ADDRESS BYPASS LANE WIDTH.

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, Section 3.1.12, "B-3 General Business District," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.1.12 B-3 General Business District

A. [unchanged]

B. Principal Permitted Uses

- i. Retail businesses use□
- ii. Retail business service uses□
- iii. Dry cleaning establishments, or pick-up stations, dealing directly with the consumer §4.24
- iv.- Business establishments which perform services on the premises
- v. Professional services□
- vi. Retail business or retail business service establishments §4.27
- vii. Professional and medical offices, including laboratories
- viii. Fueling station□ §4.29
- ix. Sale of produce and seasonal plant materials outdoors §4.30
- x. Bus passenger stations
- xi. New and used car salesroom, showroom, or office
- xii. Other uses similar to the above uses
- xiii. Tattoo parlors□
- xiv. Publicly owned and operated parks, parkways and outdoor recreational facilities
- xv. Accessory structures and uses□ §4.19 customarily incident to the above permitted uses
- xvi. Public or private health and fitness facilities and clubs §4.34
- xvii. Microbreweries□ §4.35
- xiii. Brewpubs□ §4.35
- xix. Day care centers, and adult day care centers §4.12.2

C. Special Land Uses

- i. Outdoor space for exclusive sale of new or used automobiles, campers, recreation vehicles, mobile homes□, or rental of trailers or automobiles §4.36
- ii. Motel□ §4.28
- iii. Business in the character of a drive-in or open front store §4.37
- iv. Veterinary hospitals□ or clinics□ §4.31
- v. Plant materials nursery□ §4.6
- vi. Public or private indoor and private outdoor recreational facilities §4.38
- vii. Mini-lube or oil change establishments□ §4.39
- viii. Sale of produce and seasonal plant materials outdoors §4.30
- ix. Restaurant in the character of a fast food carryout□, drive-in□, fast food drive through, □ or fast food sit-down□ §4.40
- x. Auto Wash §4.32

D. [unchanged]

Part II.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, "Use Standards," Section 4.32, "Auto Washes," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.32 Auto Washes

In the B-3 District, Auto Wash is a Special Land Use and subject to the following standards:

- 1. A minimum lot size of 2 acres;
- 2. All buildings shall have a front yard setback of not less than 40 feet;
- 3. All buildings, vehicular stacking space, vacuums, or other outside use area except parking, shall be located no closer than one-hundred (100) feet from a residentially-zoned and/or -used property, unless such property is separated from the Auto Wash by a major thoroughfare or railroad right-of-way;
- 4. All washing facilities shall be within a completely enclosed building;
- 5. Vacuuming and drying areas may be located outside the building but shall not be in the required front yard, and shall not be closer than one-hundred (100) feet from any residential district. Noise from vacuuming or blow-drying equipment shall be controlled by appropriate enclosures or sound barrier walls. All noise from such equipment shall comply with the noise performance standards of Section 5.14.
- 6. All vehicle stacking spaces shall be provided outside of any public right-of-way, and shall meet the requirements of drive-throughs as applicable in Section 5.3.11;
- 7. One 10-foot bypass lane shall be provided as a means of exiting the wash queue without having to enter the auto wash building;
- 8. Ingress and egress points shall be located at least one-hundred (100) feet from the intersection of any two streets;
- 9. All buildings shall be oriented such that bay doors and/or open bays face away from residentially-zoned and/or -used property within one-hundred (100) feet unless screened from such property by a building or wall.
- 10. Any auto wash proposed and approved by the Planning Commission prior to the formal adoption of this ordinance shall be considered a permitted use under the adopted ordinance standards at that time.
- 11. Because the nature of the building and other above-ground improvements are such that they are not readily or easily convertible to a non-auto wash use, and because the construction tends to involve a limited variety of relatively low-cost materials (e.g., block) as part of the submission for special land use approval, the applicant shall

submit a plan for the decommissioning of the auto wash and the removal of all above-ground building improvements, together with any accessory uses or items such as vacuums, air hoses, and the like if the use ceases. Cessation for a period of two years shall be presumed to constitute abandonment, but the City Council may extend the period upon good cause shown by the property owner. The plan shall include an acknowledgement by the applicant and the property owner (if different) that the decommissioning and removal are required. This requirement of a plan for decommissioning and removal is intended to insure compatibility with adjacent uses of land, and to promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner, and is intended to meet the intent and purpose of the zoning regulations for an auto wash and therefore failure to submit the plan required hereunder shall be grounds for denial of the requested special land use.

Part III.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 5, "Site Standards," Section 5.3, "Off-Street Stacking Space, Layout Standards, Construction and Maintenance," is hereby amended to read as follows:

1-10. [unchanged]

11. Any lane, route, or path in which vehicles are directed expressly for the purposes of receiving or dispensing persons, goods, or services without the driver leaving the vehicle (hereinafter referred to as a drive-through lane) shall comply with the following requirements:

A-C. [unchanged]

D. Drive-through facilities shall provide one bypass lane to allow unobstructed travel for vehicles to pass those waiting to be served. Such bypass lane shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet in width, unless otherwise determined by the Fire Marshal.

E-I. [unchanged]

12-13. [unchanged]

PART IV.

Severability. Should any section, subdivision, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or in part, shall not be affected other than the part invalidated.

PART V.

Savings Clause. The amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance does not affect or impair any act done, offense committed, or right accruing, accrued, or acquired or liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment, pending or incurred prior to the amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance.

PART VI.

Repealer. All other Ordinance or parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

PART VII.

Effective Date: Publication. Public hearing having been held hereon pursuant to the provisions of Section 103 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006, as amended, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be published within fifteen (15) days of its adoption by publication of a brief notice in a

newspaper circulated in the City of Novi stating the date of enactment and effective date, a brief statement as to its regulatory effect and that a complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public purchase, use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Local Time. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication.

MADE, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI,
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ON THE 9th DAY OF MARCH, 2026.

JUSTIN P. FISCHER, MAYOR

CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK

Ayes:
Nays:
Abstentions:
Absent:

**STRIKE-THROUGH ORDINANCE
CAR WASHES
SECOND READING**

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF NOVI
ORDINANCE NO. 18.306

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, ZONING ORDINANCE, AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: ARTICLE 3, SECTION 3.1.12 "B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT"; AND ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4.32 "AUTO WASHES"; IN ORDER TO RECLASSIFY AUTO WASHES FROM PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USES TO SPECIAL LAND USES IN THE B-3 DISTRICT, AND TO ADD USE STANDARDS TO BE MET BY NEW AUTO WASH ESTABLISHMENTS; AND ARTICLE 5, "SITE STANDARDS," SECTION 5.3, "OFF-STREET STACKING SPACE, LAYOUT STANDARDS, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE," TO ADDRESS BYPASS LANE WIDTH.

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:

Part I.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 3, Zoning Districts, Section 3.1.12, "B-3 General Business District," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.1.12 B-3 General Business District

- A. [unchanged]

- B. Principal Permitted Uses
 - i. Retail businesses use□
 - ii. Retail business service uses□
 - iii. Dry cleaning establishments, or pick-up stations, dealing directly with the consumer §4.24
 - iv.- Business establishments which perform services on the premises
 - v. Professional services□
 - vi. Retail business or retail business service establishments §4.27
 - vii. Professional and medical offices, including laboratories
 - viii. Fueling station□ §4.29
 - ix. Sale of produce and seasonal plant materials outdoors §4.30
 - ~~x. Auto wash §4.32~~
 - xi. Bus passenger stations
 - xii. New and used car salesroom, showroom, or office
 - xiii. Other uses similar to the above uses
 - ~~xiiii.~~ Tattoo parlors□
 - xiv. Publicly owned and operated parks, parkways and outdoor recreational facilities
 - xvi. Accessory structures and uses□ §4.19 customarily incident to the above permitted uses
 - xvii. Public or private health and fitness facilities and clubs §4.34
 - xviii. Microbreweries□ §4.35
 - ~~xix.~~ Brewpubs□ §4.35
 - xix. Day care centers, and adult day care centers §4.12.2

C. Special Land Uses

- i. Outdoor space for exclusive sale of new or used automobiles, campers, recreation vehicles, mobile homes□, or rental of trailers or automobiles §4.36
- ii. Motel□ §4.28
- iii. Business in the character of a drive-in or open front store §4.37
- iv. Veterinary hospitals□ or clinics□ §4.31
- v. Plant materials nursery□ §4.6
- vi. Public or private indoor and private outdoor recreational facilities §4.38
- vii. Mini-lube or oil change establishments□ §4.39
- viii. Sale of produce and seasonal plant materials outdoors §4.30
- ix. Restaurant in the character of a fast food carryout□, drive-in□, fast food drive through, □ or fast food sit-down□ §4.40
- x. Auto Wash §4.32

D. [unchanged]

Part II.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 4, "Use Standards," Section 4.32, "Auto Washes," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4.32 Auto Washes

In the B-3 District, Auto Wash is a Special Land Use and subject to the following standards: permitted use when completely enclosed in a building.

- 1. A minimum lot size of 2 acres;
- 2. All buildings shall have a front yard setback of not less than 40 feet;
- 3. All buildings, vehicular stacking space, vacuums, or other outside use area except parking, shall be located no closer than one-hundred (100) feet from a residentially-zoned and/or -used property, unless such property is separated from the Auto Wash by a major thoroughfare or railroad right-of-way;
- 4. All washing facilities shall be within a completely enclosed building;
- 5. Vacuuming and drying areas may be located outside the building but shall not be in the required front yard, and shall not be closer than one-hundred (100) feet from any residential district. Noise from vacuuming or blow-drying equipment shall be controlled by appropriate enclosures or sound barrier walls. All noise from such equipment shall comply with the noise performance standards of Section 5.14.
- 6. All vehicle stacking spaces shall be provided outside of any public right-of-way, and shall meet the requirements of drive-throughs as applicable in Section 5.3.11;
- 7. One 10-foot bypass lane shall be provided as a means of exiting the wash queue without having to enter the auto wash building;
- 8. Ingress and egress points shall be located at least one-hundred (100) feet from the intersection of any two streets;
- 9. All buildings shall be oriented such that bay doors and/or open bays face away from residentially-zoned and/or -used property within one-hundred (100) feet unless screened from such property by a building or wall.
- 10. Any auto wash proposed and approved by the Planning Commission prior to the formal adoption of this ordinance shall be considered a permitted use under the adopted ordinance standards at that time.
- 11. Because the nature of the building and other above-ground improvements are such that they are not readily or easily convertible to a non-auto wash use, and because the construction tends to involve a limited variety of relatively low-cost materials (e.g.,

block) as part of the submission for special land use approval, the applicant shall submit a plan for the decommissioning of the auto wash and the removal of all above-ground building improvements, together with any accessory uses or items such as vacuums, air hoses, and the like if the use ceases. Cessation for a period of two years shall be presumed to constitute abandonment, but the City Council may extend the period upon good cause shown by the property owner. The plan shall include an acknowledgement by the applicant and the property owner (if different) that the decommissioning and removal are required. This requirement of a plan for decommissioning and removal is intended to insure compatibility with adjacent uses of land, and to promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner, and is intended to meet the intent and purpose of the zoning regulations for an auto wash and therefore failure to submit the plan required hereunder shall be grounds for denial of the requested special land use.

Part III.

That the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, as amended, Article 5, "Site Standards," Section 5.3, "Off-Street Stacking Space, Layout Standards, Construction and Maintenance," is hereby amended to read as follows:

1-10. [unchanged]

11. Any lane, route, or path in which vehicles are directed expressly for the purposes of receiving or dispensing persons, goods, or services without the driver leaving the vehicle (hereinafter referred to as a drive-through lane) shall comply with the following requirements:

A-C. [unchanged]

D. Drive-through facilities shall provide one bypass lane to allow unobstructed travel for vehicles to pass those waiting to be served. Such bypass lane shall be a minimum of ~~eighteen (18)~~ ten (10) feet in width, unless otherwise determined by the Fire Marshal.

E-I. [unchanged]

12-13. [unchanged]

PART IV.

Severability. Should any section, subdivision, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, or in part, shall not be affected other than the part invalidated.

PART V.

Savings Clause. The amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance does not affect or impair any act done, offense committed, or right accruing, accrued, or acquired or liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment, pending or incurred prior to the amendment of the Novi Code of Ordinances set forth in this Ordinance.

PART VI.

Repealer. All other Ordinance or parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

PART VII.

Effective Date: Publication. Public hearing having been held hereon pursuant to the provisions of Section 103 of Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006, as amended, the provisions of this Ordinance

shall be published within fifteen (15) days of its adoption by publication of a brief notice in a newspaper circulated in the City of Novi stating the date of enactment and effective date, a brief statement as to its regulatory effect and that a complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public purchase, use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Local Time. The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication.

MADE, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ON THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

JUSTIN P. FISCHER, MAYOR

CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK

Ayes:
Nays:
Abstentions:
Absent:

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES EXCERPT
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**



PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES EXCERPT

CITY OF NOVI
Regular Meeting

September 10, 2025 7:00 PM

Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center
45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 (248) 347-0475

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Pehrson, Member Lynch, Member Dismondy, Member Avdoulos, Member Roney

Absent Excused: Member Verma

Staff: Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney; Lindsay Bell, Senior Planner; Rick Meader, Landscape Architect; Humna Anjum, Project Engineer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member Lynch led the meeting attendees in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Member Lynch and seconded by Member Avdoulos to approve the September 10, 2025 Planning Commission Agenda.

2. TEXT AMENDMENT 18.306 – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CAR WASH STANDARDS

Public hearing for Text Amendment 18.306 to reclassify auto washes from Principal Permitted Uses to Special Land Uses in the B-3 District subject to new conditions, and to amend various additional sections of the ordinance as determined necessary.

Senior Planner Lindsay Bell stated earlier this year, the Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) requested Staff look into the current Zoning Ordinance standards for Car Wash facilities.

In recent years, the City has received many inquiries to develop car wash facilities. The proliferation of this use is a nation-wide trend. Today about 80% of car washes are done at a commercial facility compared to about 50% in the 1990s. In addition, the car wash model is very attractive to investors because the low labor requirements and convenient membership models bring in big annual returns. Some forecasts predict that the number of car washes in the U.S. will double by 2030.

The risk of continuing the trend to build more car washes is oversaturation of the market, with the revenue of existing car washes decreasing with each new one that opens as they compete for customers. Due to the specific design of a car wash building, if the business closes, it could be difficult to repurpose the structure for another use.

In the City of Novi, Auto Washes are a principal permitted use only in the B-3 General Business District. There are no specific use standards except for the requirement that they are completely enclosed in a building. Otherwise, they are expected to comply with the requirements of the B-3 District for building and parking setbacks, and building height (Section 3.1.12).

Section 3.10 contains Required Conditions for the B-1, B-2 and B-3 Districts, and states that overhead/service bay doors shall not face a major thoroughfare nor an abutting residential district. Car washes often must seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for this condition because of the long tunnel design typical of car wash buildings with an entrance and exit door make it difficult to avoid having one overhead door facing the road. Modern car washes often have outdoor vacuum stations as an accessory use, which does require an outdoor component.

Planner Bell referenced a map on the screen showing the locations of the existing and proposed car washes in Novi. The white labels reference existing car washes, while the green labels note existing smaller car washes that are accessory to a gas station. The two yellow labels represent new car washes that have been submitted for site plan review – both are on properties zoned B-3, so the use is principal permitted, or permitted as of right (*without* the discretion for approval that a Special Land Use would allow).

Planner Bell stated staff reviewed other communities' ordinances and found there are many differing standards for car washes. Farmington Hills recently amended its Zoning Ordinance to state that in the B-3 District, vehicle washes are only permitted on properties that had a legally conforming vehicle wash as of the date of their ordinance amendment. They also have specific use standards to be met. In Farmington, automobile washes are a Special Land Use in the C-3 District. In Plymouth, automobile car washes are permitted as a Special Land Use in the B-3 and ARC (Ann Arbor Road Corridor) Districts, subject to several use standards. In Wixom, car washes are a Special Land Use in their B-3 District, and a permitted use in the FS District. There are a few use standards that must be met.

In June, the City Council's Ordinance Review Committee (ORC) discussed the draft text amendment and made suggestions for revisions. One suggestion was the condition that car wash buildings that become vacant would need to be torn down. This has been added to the draft text amendment you received tonight in the packet – as shown in italics. The Committee also increased the minimum lot size from 1 acre to 2 acres. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend the text amendment to City Council for consideration. On August 11th, City Council approved the referral of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.306 to the Planning Commission for public hearing and recommendation to City Council.

Planner Bell stated the text amendment proposed would change the use from Principal Permitted to the more discretionary Special Land Use in the B-3 District. This would not impact the smaller accessory car washes that are sometimes found at gas stations. The specific use standards car washes would include a minimum lot size of 2 acres, 40-foot minimum front yard setback, minimum 100-foot setback from residential properties, outdoor vacuum stations shall not be in front yard, with noise controlled by sound barriers if necessary to meet noise performance standards (Section 5.14), overhead doors shall not face residential-zoned properties, or must be screened by another building or wall, and any new auto wash proposed that has been approved by the Planning Commission prior to formal adoption of this ordinance shall be considered a permitted use under the adopted ordinance standards at that time. If the proposed text amendment is adopted as proposed, some of the existing car washes will become non-conforming with the new standards. All of the existing car washes are on parcels less than 2 acres. The other standards appear to be able to be met. The two proposed car washes are both on properties greater than 2 acres.

The Planning Commission is asked to hold the scheduled Public Hearing and consider making a recommendation to the City Council on the proposed ordinance amendment.

Chair Pehrson opened the public hearing and invited members of the audience who wished to speak to approach the podium.

Mr. Scott Griffin and Mr. Jamie Burke with Quick Pass Car Wash inquired if they would be negatively affected by the text amendment.

Seeing no others and confirming there was no correspondence received Chair Pehrson closed the audience participation and turned the matter over to the planning commission.

Member Lynch stated he trusts the judgement of the experts.

Member Dismondy inquired if Jax Car Wash is located at Fountain Walk.

Planner Bell confirmed that Jax was not approved by the City Council.

Member Roney had no further comment.

Member Avdoulos stated he had a question related to item eleven which states if the car wash is vacated it will have to be destroyed. He inquired if that would include the non-conforming car washes.

Planner Bell stated the way it was written it would be grandfathered in.

Chair Pehrson inquired if the current ordinance includes noise conditions for new car washes.

Planner Bell stated Special Land Use would rise to the level of requiring a noise study.

Chair Pehrson inquired if touchless car washes fall into the same standard.

Planner Bell confirmed that touchless car washes would still be considered a car wash and fall under the same standard.

Motion to recommend adoption to the City Council of Text Amendment 18.306 – Proposed Amendments to Car Wash Standards as presented made by Member Avdoulos and seconded by Member Lynch.

ROLL CALL VOICE VOTE ON MOTION TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF TEXT AMENDMENT 18.306 – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CAR WASH STANDARDS AS PRESENTED MOVED BY MEMBER AVDOULOS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH. *Motion carried 5-0.*

**ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2025**

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
June 23, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Fischer called the meeting to order at 5:37 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fischer, Mayor Pro Tem Casey, Council Member Staudt

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
Charles Boulard, Director of Community Development
Barb McBeth, City Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ORCM 25-06-08 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the agenda as presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Approval of minutes from May 5, 2025:

ORCM 25-06-09 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Ordinance Review Committee meeting minutes from May 5, 2025.

2. Review permitted uses under the B-3 Zoning Classification.

Ms. McBeth explained the content of the memo provided by the Planning Department outlining the background, existing ordinance standards, comparisons to neighboring jurisdictions, and proposed amendments to the ordinance. Mayor Fischer asked about other zoning districts besides B-3, like Light Industrial, that may be a better fit for car washes since B-3 districts seem to be along major thoroughfares. Staff explained the Light Industrial properties offered a lot more acreage in available land. Mayor Fischer asked with the proposed changes, would they affect existing or pending car washes. Ms. McBeth stated only one is currently non-conforming and has been for a while. There are two that are proposed, one of which would not meet the proposed setback. Mayor Fischer asked if it would be possible to grandfather those that are proposed and through the final site plan phase. City Attorney Schultz said there would be a way to find an exemption.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey stated she would prefer a minimum parcel size of 2 acres and that a business would have to tear the building down if they were to close.

ORCM 25-06-10 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To recommend Ordinance Amendment 18.306 to City Council for consideration.

3. Discussion on amendments to Chapter 24, Article II related to Outdoor Gatherings.

Director Boulard explained the Outdoor Gathering Application process and the challenges staff face in ensuring the events meet the expected public safety standards. The proposed changes to the ordinance include eliminating sections that have never been enforced and sections that are not pertinent. The date to submit an application for an outdoor assembly was modified from 10 days in advance of the event to 14 days in advance.

ORCM 25-06-11 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To recommend the proposed amendments to Chapter 24, Article II related to Outdoor Gatherings.

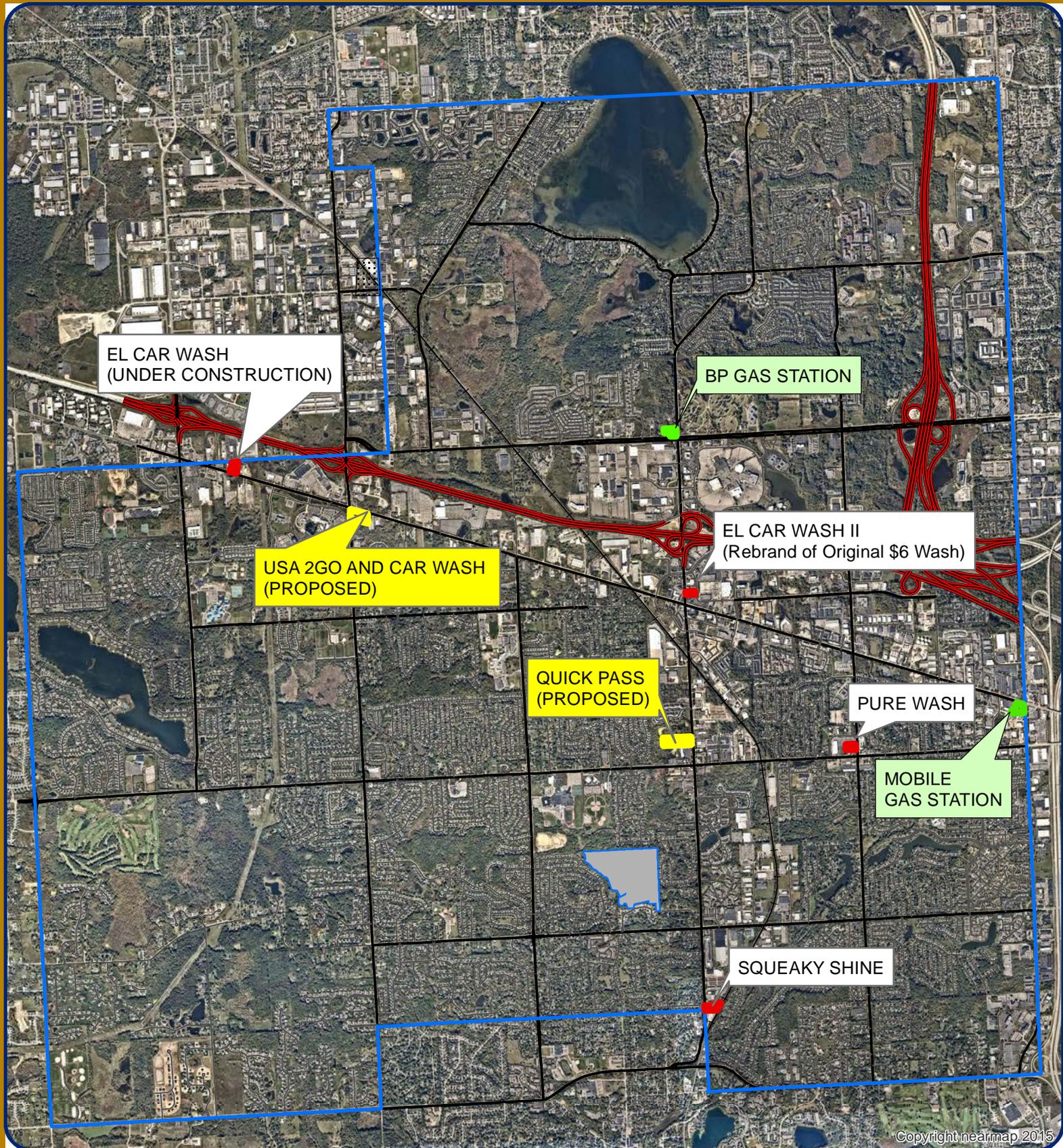
The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Recorded by: Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

**EXISTING AND PROPOSED CAR WASHES
EXHIBIT FROM
ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE PACKET**

Car Washes

EXISTING AND PROPOSED



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City of Novi
 Dept. of Community Development
 City Hall / Civic Center
 45175 W Ten Mile Rd
 Novi, MI 48375
cityofnovi.org

Map Author: Lindsay Bell
 Date: 4-10-25
 Project: Car Wash Survey
 Version #: 1



0 900 1,800 3,600 5,400 Feet

MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE

Map information depicted is not intended to replace or substitute for any official or primary source. This map was intended to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and use the most recent, accurate sources available to the people of the City of Novi. Boundary measurements and area calculations are approximate and should not be construed as survey measurements performed by a licensed Michigan Surveyor as defined in Michigan Public Act 132 of 1970 as amended. Please contact the City GIS Manager to confirm source and accuracy information related to this map.



1 – Squeaky Shine, Novi Road



2 – Pure Wash, Meadowbrook Road & 10 Mile



**3 – Original \$6 Car Wash, Novi Road
(Proposed rebranding to El Car Wash)**



**4 – El Car Wash, Grand River Ave & 12 Mile
(Under Construction)**



5 – BP Gas Station with accessory car wash, 12 Mile and Novi Road



6 – Mobile Gas Station with accessory car wash, Grand River & Haggerty



303 VACUUMS RENDERING
A300 SCALE: NO SCALE



302 NORTHWEST RENDERING
A300 SCALE: NO SCALE

7 – Proposed Quick Pass, Novi Road & 10 Mile



301 SOUTHEAST FENDERING
A300 SCALE: NO SCALE



7 - Proposed Car Wash with Grand Beck Development, Grand River & Beck Road