

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, February 2, 2023

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, February 2, 2023. Chair White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

A. Rollcall

Present: Chair Doug White, Vice-Chair Tom Peard; Board Members Mark Doolittle, Anthony Long, Victoria Policicchio, Joe Zane; Alternate Board Members Gordon Davies, Patrick Hillberg (not voting)

Absent: Board Member David Hocker

Staff: Senior Planner Cowan; City Engineer Coatta, City Transcriptionist Eichenhorn, Police Captain Kearney, Fire Chief Wells

F&V: Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

B. Introductions & Chair Comments

SP Cowan noted that former ACE Zielinski had been hired as the new DPS Director, and would no longer be regularly attending MMTB meetings. SP Cowan introduced CE Coatta, who was present on behalf of the Engineering Department.

C. Review of the Agenda

D. Approval of MMTB Minutes of December 1, 2022

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by VC Peard to approve the MMTB Minutes of December 1, 2022 as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Policicchio, Doolittle, Zane, Long, Peard, Davies, White

Nays: None

E. New Business

1. Park Street – Parking Removal Consideration

FC Wells presented the item and answered brief informational questions from the Board. It was noted that there had been no complaints from residents about limiting parking on Park Street north of Oakland to one side of the street.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by VC Peard to provide a recommendation to the City Commission that Park Street north of Oakland allow permitted parking only on the east side of the street

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Policicchio, Doolittle, Zane, Long, Peard, Davies, White

Nays: None

F. Unfinished Business

1. S. Eton, Villa to 14 Mile

SP Cowan introduced the item. Mr. Strader and Ms. Kroll presented the item. SP Cowan, Mr. Strader, Ms. Kroll, and CE Coatta answered informational questions from the Board.

VC Peard stated that he attended the feedback session and that a lot of good feedback was provided. He commended Staff and the consultants on the feedback session. He noted that the feedback provided was broad, and included related topics like speed concerns. He recommended the presentations on these changes include descriptions of how the changes would positively impact all of the residents' concerns, and not just pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic.

Mr. Strader confirmed that was already being done and concurred with VC Peard's observations.

Mr. Zane spoke in favor of Option B1 and extending the bike lane to 14 Mile. He said it would be positive to extend it further in the future.

In reply to an inquiry from Mr. Zane, SP Cowan and Mr. Strader confirmed the City intends to try and work with Royal Oak to increase multi-modal connectivity between the cities in the future.

Board members expressed enthusiasm for that intent.

Ms. Policicchio recommended that potential cost differences and assessment necessities between the options be presented to residents as early in the process as possible since those would likely be factors in the public's support.

Mr. Long stated that traffic calming was very much needed on Eton. He said that people backing out of a driveway or turning to the west were not expecting a bike lane with bi-directional traffic, which he noted could be dangerous. He said he would like to see a pedestrian crossing similar to the one on Lincoln with a pedestrian island. He said narrowing Eton between Lincoln and 14 Mile and potentially adding a bump out would be beneficial as well.

Mr. Strader confirmed that residents were in favor of a pedestrian island in this location as well.

Mr. Hillberg asked Staff and the consultants to look into the research showing that sharrows might be more dangerous than no sharrows and to integrate their findings into their future recommendations.

Public Comment

Brian Tate, resident at the corner of Eton and Hazel, thanked Staff and the consultants for working on this. He emphasized the importance of increasing safety in the area, noting that many young children live in the area.

Seeing no further public comment, conversation returned to the Board.

Board consensus was supportive of Option B1. Mr. Long said that if the budget was insufficient the bike lane could remain at grade from Lincoln to 14 Mile.

2. Woodward Ave Road Diet – MDOT DRAFT Scope of Work

SP Cowan introduced the item. Ms. Kroll and Mr. Strader presented the item and Ms. Kroll, Mr. Strader, and SP Cowan answered informational questions from the Board.

Mr. Long stated that the efforts to make Woodward narrower and safer stemmed from two pedestrian deaths which occurred near the Forest and Woodward intersection. He noted that it would also increase connection between the east and west sides of Birmingham. He briefly noted Ferndale was able to get a 35 mph speed limit on Woodward that Birmingham would not qualify for. He noted that Birmingham was working to increase Woodward's safety and that those efforts often encountered resistance from MDOT.

Mr. Zane noted that Birmingham's conditions around Woodward were unique in that Birmingham's downtown was much closer to Woodward than Royal Oak's, and that Birmingham wants to be a walkable city whereas Bloomfield Twp. does not.

SP Cowan noted that communities along Woodward have started collaborating on ideas for how Woodward could be made safer.

Mr. Zane said that the Woodward road diet could still be beneficial if it limited to the stretch where pedestrians would be most interested in crossing.

G. Meeting Open to the Public for items not on the Agenda

H. Miscellaneous Communications

I. Next Meeting

J. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the Board adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED