

**City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2022**

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, April 7, 2022. Chair Doug White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**A. Rollcall**

**Present:** Chair Doug White; Board Members David Hocker, Anthony Long, Tom Peard, Victoria Policicchio, Michael St. Germain (arrived 6:02 p.m.); Alternate Board Member Mark Doolittle

**Absent:** Board Member Joe Zane; Alternate Board Member Amanda Fishburn

**Administration:**

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner  
Scott Grewe, Operations Commander  
Jim Surhigh, Consulting City Engineer

**MKSK:** Brad Strader

**B. Approval of MMTB Minutes of March 3, 2022**

**Motion by Mr. Peard**

**Seconded by Mr. Hocker to approve the MMTB Minutes of March 3, 2022 as submitted.**

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: White, Peard, Hocker, Long, Policicchio, St. Germain, Doolittle...

Nays: None

**C. Introductions & Chair Comments**

Mr. Doolittle introduced himself to the Board. The Chair welcomed Mr. Doolittle.

**D. Review of the Agenda**

SP Cowan noted that an amended agenda was posted to the City's website.

**E. Unfinished Business**

None.

**F. New Business**

**1. Set Hearing of Necessity: Westwood Rd Improvements, Raynale to Oak**

CCE Surhigh presented the item.

CCE Surhigh answered brief informational questions from the Board.

#### Public Comment

Steven Torok, resident of Westwood, said Westwood does not have a flooding problem, does not have heavy traffic, and does have occasional needs for parking. He said that preserving, and possibly adding, trees as part of the project would be of significant importance for him.

Corey Holter, resident of Westwood, concurred with Mr. Torok that Westwood does not have a flooding problem. Mr. Holter stated that the street is used above the 15% threshold for overnight parking and is a school route, both of which are criteria that would recommend against narrowing the street.

Greg Obloy, resident of Glenhurst, said he has had no issues with flooding or sewer backups in his ten years on Glenhurst. He said the need for the special assessment district seemed to be arising out of a City concern rather than a resident one. He said he was not in favor of the project.

#### **Motion by Ms. Policicchio**

**Seconded by Mr. Peard to set a Public Hearing date of May 5, 2022 to consider recommendations for the change in street width for Westwood Dr., between Raynale St and Oak St at the regularly scheduled Multi-Modal Transportation Board meeting.**

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

#### VOICE VOTE

Yeas: White, Peard, Hocker, Long, Policicchio, St. Germain, Doolittle

Nays: None

### **2. Multi-Modal Transportation Plan – Overview**

SP Cowan reviewed the topic.

Mr. Hocker said he would like to see better enforcement of the requirement to remove snow from residential sidewalks within 24 hours.

In response to another comment from Mr. Hocker, SP Cowan said he could reach out to the Birmingham Chamber and the Birmingham Shopping District to see if there was interest in helping publish the Board's bicycle route map.

In reply to Ms. Policicchio, SP Cowan said the City's general approach to trees in project areas is to preserve them when possible.

### **3. Crosswalk Markings and Location Standards**

SP Cowan introduced the topic.

Mr. Strader and SP Cowan presented the item.

In reply to Mr. St. Germain, OC Grewe stated that the Police Department was gradually updating crosswalks to meet the current standard, focusing first in the downtown area and then in areas near schools. He noted that as streets are redone the new standards would be applied as well.

### **G. Meeting Open to the Public for Items not on the Agenda**

Mr. Hocker raised concerns about pedestrians continuing to walk on the south side of Oak between Lakeside and Lakeview. He said the City should find a way to address the issue.

Mr. Hocker also raised concerns about a potential sidewalk in front of Greenwood Cemetery (the Cemetery), noting that it could impact mature trees. He asked if the City would commit to removing the snow from that sidewalk.

Mr. Hocker noted that excessive overflow ponding on the south side of Raynale between Suffield and Fairfax should be investigated in tandem with the improvements to Westwood Street.

Mr. Hocker also suggested paving the former walkway along Oak in lieu of the existing grass to at least accommodate a safe footing in the event of an errant walker.

CCE Surhigh said he suspected that DPS would keep a sidewalk in front of the Cemetery clear, but said that would have to be confirmed.

CCE Surhigh also explained the ways the City is trying to address the issue on the south side of Oak between Lakeside and Lakeview, including saying that adding the sidewalk in front of the Cemetery might alleviate some of the issue. He said the Board could study the topic further.

Mr. Peard recommended the removing the sidewalk in front of bushes on the south side of Oak between Lakeside and Lakeview heading east. He said that would likely prevent people from starting to walk east on the south side of the street and continuing when the sidewalk ends.

CCE Surhigh said the City could explore what the impact of removing that sidewalk might be.

Mr. Peard said the crosswalk in the area was effective and well-done.

There was brief discussion about a City business' new autonomous vehicle.

SP Cowan described plans for an upcoming Multi-Modal Transportation Day.

### **H. Miscellaneous Communications**

#### **I. Adjournment**

No further business being evident, the Board adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner



Laura Eichenhorn  
City Transcriptionist

APPROVED