

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, June 2, 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, June 2, 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, Joe Zane; Alternate Board Member Mark Doolittle; Student Representative Ben Rosenfield

Absent: Board Member Michael St. Germain; Alternate Board Member Amanda Fishburn; Student Representative Isabela Betanzos

Administration:

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

F&V: Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

B. Approval of MMTB Minutes of May 5, 2022 and May 19, 2022

Motion by Mr. Hocker

Seconded by Mr. Peard to approve the MMTB Minutes of May 5, 2022 as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Mr. Zane noted that the May 19, 2022 meeting was convened around noon and not around 6 p.m. as the minutes stated.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Mr. Long to approve the MMTB Minutes of May 19, 2022 as amended.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

C. Introductions & Chair Comments

OC Grewe stated he would be out-of-state for a period of time, and that Lt. Ryan Kearney would be available for any MMTB-related business in his absence.

D. Review of the Agenda

E. New Business

1. Transportation Day Review

Chair White commended SP Cowan for his organization of Transportation Day.

SP Cowan summarized Transportation Day.

He noted that when he and some of the Board members attempted to cross Woodward from the east at Forest and Brown at the end of the day, they were forced to sprint across the last two lanes to the median as a result of aggressive drivers. SP Cowan and the Board members were then yelled at by one of the vehicles to get out of the road. He acknowledged that it was an uncomfortable experience, and noted that Transportation Day was in part inspired by the difficulties Birmingham faces with that particular crosswalk.

Mr. Zane said he enjoyed the Transportation Day experience. He said he was interested in exploring the MoGo bikes further as an option for Birmingham, stating that they could be useful for people who do not want to transport their bikes or for visitors to the City. He said they were fairly convenient. He said there were a few issues with getting the app to accurately identify the user's location, but said that was typical of technology growing pains and that the experience of using the bikes was positive. He said the most challenging area was at Woodward and 9 Mile, and that the rest of the loop was relatively friendly for bikers beyond that.

Mr. Hocker said he would also be interested in exploring MoGo for Birmingham further. He said it would be useful for the municipalities along the Woodward corridor to have a common bicycle provider so that bikes could be rented and dropped off in different cities depending on a user's preferences. He said he concurred with SP Cowan's description of trying to cross Woodward at Forest and Brown. He agreed with Mr. Zane's statement that crossing Woodward at 9 Mile was difficult as well. He said creating more protection for bikers there would be of more value than protecting bicycle paths in other locations. Mr. Hocker said Transportation Day was an excellent experience overall, with the exception of crossing Woodward at Forest and Brown.

In reply to Mr. Hocker, Mr. Zane noted that MoGo is a Detroit-based non-profit with locations in a number of local municipalities. He said meeting with MoGo would be a worthwhile first step for exploring how Birmingham could incorporate the bikes into the community.

Mr. Peard said he thought of Eton Road twice during Transportation Day. The first was heading north on Pinecrest, where there were dedicated bike lanes on either side of the road with green markings. He described that bike infrastructure as simple, inexpensive, and very effective. He said, in contrast, that the candlesticks marking the bike lanes heading east on Woodward Heights

were overdone, more expensive, and less effective. He emphasized that the simpler design on Pinecrest was more appropriate for neighborhood roads like Eton.

Chair White stated that using the app for the bus was relatively easy, although the email to reset his password went into junk mail initially. He said riding the bus and accessing the MoGo bikes was also easy. He said the MoGo bike stations in Ferndale seemed strategically placed. He said the bike infrastructure in Ferndale seemed a little more contiguous and intuitive than Birmingham's current bike infrastructure. He agreed with Mr. Peard that the simpler bike lanes were likely better for neighborhood contexts. He said Ferndale's bike infrastructure also seemed to be simpler than Birmingham's currently is. The Chair said it was also valuable to meet with Ferndale staff at the end of the day.

2. Brown & Woodward Ave Crosswalk

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

Ms. Kroll stated that more information about potential changes to Brown Street would likely be available at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Zane said people in the crosswalk would have to be cognizant of drivers turning right.

Motion by Ms. Policicchio

Seconded by Mr. Zane to recommend to City Commission that eastbound Brown Street be reduced to one lane from Peabody to Woodward Avenue to enable the installation of a crosswalk on Woodward Avenue connecting the southern sidewalk on Brown Street to the southern sidewalk of Forest Avenue.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

3. Multi-Modal Transportation Plan review

SP Cowan and Mr. Strader reviewed the item.

Mr. Strader said the survey indicated that there was the most interest in 'Woodward Ave and its crossings', 'Expand discussion on traffic calming options', and an exploration on what could be learned from crash data. He said the next tier of priorities was 'Map the sidewalk gaps and discuss priorities and funding' and 'Add more "Protected" bikeways (a separator between the cars and bicycle lane)'. He said that looking at potential changes to Adams Road north of Maple was also raised by a few Board members in the comments, and noted that topic was already slated for a future Board agenda.

In reply to an inquiry from Mr. Doolittle, Mr. Zane stated that one example of an area with sidewalk gaps is south of Lincoln and west of Southfield.

Mr. Strader said there are also sidewalk gaps in the area of Evergreen and Cranbrook.

SP Cowan and Mr. Strader said it would likely be worthwhile to update the sidewalk gap map to be more precise about where sidewalk gaps occur.

Mr. Strader said it would also likely be worthwhile to focus on sidewalk gaps near parks and schools.

SP Cowan said he would email the survey results to the Board members.

Mr. Strader recommended that the Board review the survey results and then recommended that the Board have a discussion about which items should be prioritized at the July meeting.

SP Cowan noted that the previous plan did not have much on micro-mobility or last-mile infrastructure and recommended that those be considered for the update.

F. Unfinished Business

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

H. Miscellaneous Communications

Mr. Hocker said it would be useful to begin considering where MoGo stations should be placed.

Mr. Zane said bike paths locations, reasons for bike usage, and where the City wants to encourage bike use would tie into that discussion.

SP Cowan said increasing the number of bike stations between Ferndale and Birmingham could also be part of efforts to increase regional coordination.

Chair White said it would be nice to have a Board visit to Royal Oak as well.

SP Cowan concurred.

I. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the Board adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner



Laura Eichenhorn
City Transcriptionist

APPROVED