

APPROVED

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board Thursday, October 7, 2021

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, October 7, 2021.

Chair Schafer convened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

1. Rollcall

Present: Chair Katie Schafer; Board Members Andrew Haig, David Hocker, Doug White; Alternate Board Member Joe Zane

Absent: Board Members David Lurie, Tom Peard; Alternate Board Member Amanda Fishburn; Student Representatives Lauren Morris, Justin Schoener, Alex Walters

Administration:

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner (SP)
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist (CT)
Scott Grewe, Operations Commander (OC)
Jim Surhigh, Consulting City Engineer (CCE)
Scott Zielinski, Assistant City Engineer (ACE)

Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V):

Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

2. Introductions

3. Review Agenda

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of August 5, 2021

With Messrs. White and Zane abstaining due to their absences from the August 5, 2021 meeting and with Messrs. Lurie and Peard absent from the present meeting the MMTB did not have a quorum for a vote on the minutes.

The August 5, 2021 minutes will be returned for approval along with the October 7, 2021 minutes at the November 4, 2021 MMTB meeting.

5. Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Roadway Improvements (2021-2022)

ACE Zielinski introduced the item.

Mr. Strader presented the item.

Mr. Strader noted that Pierce is 28 feet wide so installing two bicycle lanes would not likely be possible.

SP Cowan noted that Pierce is used by cyclists looking to connect to Beverly Hills and Oak Park.

Given the proximity to a school, the MMTB recommended MKSK study other bicycle options along Pierce and return with possibilities.

CCE Surhigh said the Engineering Department could study sidewalk options for Redding and return to the Board with recommendations.

Chair Schafer said the general consensus of the Board has been that sidewalks should be pursued wherever possible. Consequently, she said studying the feasibility of sidewalks on Redding would be appropriate.

The Board concurred with the recommendations made by Staff in their August 25, 2021 memorandum regarding Edgewood.

6. S. Eton Road Striping Before & After Analysis

SP Cowan and Ms. Kroll reviewed the item. Ms. Kroll observed that cycling increased in the area where cycling infrastructure was provided.

SP Cowan stated that among those who ride bicycles daily, weekly or monthly, 48% thought the bikeway should remain as-is, 27% said it should be revised, and 17% said it should be removed.

Mr. Zane said he did have some safety concerns about crossing Villa when going north on Eton.

CCE Surhigh noted that S. Eton is in line for complete road reconstruction either in FY '22-'23 or FY '23-'24. As a result, he said now is an appropriate time to be making recommendations for potential revisions to the road.

Mr. Zane and Chair Schafer agreed that if there would be a way to put in a bike lane on each side of the road that would be ideal.

Mr. Strader floated the possibility of either having a few Board members or Staff go down to Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge to discuss what working with MDOT regarding Woodward has been like and what lessons have been learned. He recommended that Birmingham also survey was Boston and other cities are doing in increasing their bikeability. He stated that a lot of new design and research has occurred since the MMTB initially proposed the S. Eton road striping in 2018.

Chair Schafer noted that since the cycling infrastructure in this area proved popular, there are new options to consider for cycling infrastructure design, and S. Eton will be redone in a few years, it might be most appropriate to redesign the cycling infrastructure options for this area.

Mr. Strader concurred.

It was discussed that designing a bicycle path that could be kept relatively debris-free would be an important consideration.

Chair Schafer said it would also be helpful to have new parking data for the east side of S. Eton.

CCE Surhigh said potential pedestrian improvements at Maple and S. Eton could also be brought back to the Board for discussion.

SP Cowan said the item would be returned to the Board for future discussion.

7. Oakland & Park Intersection, "No Left Turn"

OC Grewe summarized the item.

The Board concurred that the recommendation to retain the southbound left-turn prohibition on Park Street was appropriate.

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. White to maintain the existing southbound left-turn prohibition on southbound Park Street at Oakland Ave.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Haig, White, Zane, Hocker, Schafer

Nays: None

8. Greenwood Ave Parking Permits – Willits to Harmon

OC Grewe presented the item.

The Board concurred that the establishment of a permit-exempt two hour time zone along this area of Greenwood was an appropriate way of addressing the residents' concerns.

Chair Schafer noted that the petition from residents was originally submitted almost two years prior, at the beginning of 2020. While the residents on Greenwood re-confirmed their interest in July 2021, she asked that the City double-check with residents if there are similar implementation gaps in the future to ensure that residents remain interested in the solution sought by the original petition.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Mr. Haig to recommended to the City Commission the approval of the installation of a permit-exempt 2 hour time zone from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Greenwood St. from Willits St to Harmon St.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Zane, Hocker, Schafer, Haig, White
Nays: None

9. Oak Street & Lakeview Update

ACE Zielinski presented the item. He stated the City was determining whether the Sidewalk Ends sign on the north side of Oak was indeed in the right-of-way or in a resident's yard. He said the snow fence would remain until Spring 2022 to see whether pedestrians no longer try to walk along the north side of Oak or whether salt-resistant landscaping would need to be installed to continue to deter pedestrians.

Mr. Haig recommended that a bioswale be considered instead of landscaping.

CCE Surhigh said a bioswale could be a possibility.

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

11. Miscellaneous Communications

- a. RTA Draft Master Plan & Relevant Phone Apps

SP Cowan noted that Board members could either contact the RTA directly with feedback or Staff could collect feedback from Board members and send it along.

12. Next Meeting – November 4, 2021

13. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner