

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, November 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, November 1, 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, Joe Zane; Alternate Board Members Gordon Davies, Patrick Hillberg

Absent: Board Member David Hocker, Victoria Policicchio; Student Representatives Sophie Hanawalt, Angie Sharma

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

F&V: Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

B. Introductions & Chair Comments

Mr. Hillberg provided the Board's introductory comments.

C. Review of the Agenda

D. Approval of MMTB Minutes of October 5, 2023

Motion by Mr. Long

Seconded by VC Peard to approve the MMTB Minutes of October 5, 2023 as amended.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

E. New Business

1. N. Old Woodward and Oakland

SP Cowan presented the item and Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

A Board member stated that additional pavement markings and/or signage should be added to direct drivers into the appropriate turn lanes prior to the intersection.

Motion by Mr. Hillberg

Seconded by Mr. Long to recommend to the City Commission that the intersection of N. Old Woodward at Willits and Oakland be designed with permanent bumpouts and a concrete buffer island for the bus stop as indicated in Exhibit A, with the addition of additional pavement markings and/or signage to be added to direct drivers into the appropriate turn lanes prior to the intersection.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

F. Unfinished Business

2. Arlington Rd. and Shirley Dr.

SP Cowan presented the item and Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Chair White explained the procedures for the discussion.

Public Comment

Jim Mirro, Lorretta Mirro, Midge Moran, Alice Silbergleit, and Mike Vansyckle opposed making changes to Arlington or Shirley.

Mr. Mirro opposed the tree removal citing sustainability and 'Tree City' concerns.

Bill Edmunds supported an environmental assessment of the project and, if the project is carried out, using City funds to fund the project rather than a special assessment.

Bob Epstein made comments in favor of the project with a greenbelt and suggested other funding methods be considered.

Mike Minnelli supported either options A or D with cost sharing and the addition of lights on the street.

Fremont Scott made a comment about speed reduction and sidewalks.

Gary Saltzgeber made a comment about trees on Shirley.

Tony Trease supported option A and suggested other funding methods be considered.

Karen Gaudette made a comment regarding the different conditions in different parts of the neighborhood, and supported a sidewalk at the corner of Lincoln and Shirley.

Lynn Trease supported the project.

Citing sustainability, Heidi Pinkert opposed adding sidewalks, improving the road, or removing trees.

Joe Durham supported adding sidewalks to one side of the road.

Niharika Ramdev supported maintaining the street width, reducing the interest rate for financing, and suggested other funding methods be considered.

Elaine Hazel and Kevin Marsh said that if the project moves forward, other funding methods should be used.

Diana Marsh spoke in favor of sidewalks.

Board comments were as follows:

- No recommendation will make all the residents happy, and the Board only makes recommendations to the Commission. The Commission ultimately decides if and how the project moves forward;
- Potentially adding a sidewalk to only one side of the street was an attempt to compromise between multiple resident preferences and City recommendations;
- If the streets are improved, they will not have to be improved again;
- Project funding is outside the purview of the Board;
- Birmingham's elected officials have already decided that adding sidewalks throughout the City is a priority. Accordingly, the Board is tasked with considering not whether to add sidewalks, but how best to add sidewalks;
- Removed trees are sometimes planted elsewhere in the City and as many removed trees as possible are replaced;
- The City puts significant effort into tree retention and replacement; and,
- Options A, B, D, and an option that, in addition to a sidewalk, adds a greenbelt that moves around trees on one side to preserve as many trees as possible should be discussed at a public hearing.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by VC Peard to reschedule the regularly scheduled December 7 meeting to December 5, and to have a public hearing on the repaving of Shirley and Arlington.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

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 8:41 p.m.



Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist

APPROVED