

DRAFT

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board Thursday, November 3, 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, November 3, 2022. Chair Doug White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

A. Rollcall

Present: Chair Doug White; Board Members Mark Doolittle, David Hocker, Anthony Long, Tom Peard, Victoria Policicchio; Alternate Board Member Gordon Davies (present but not voting), Patrick Hillberg; Student Representative Ben Rosenfield (left 8:01 p.m.)

Absent: Board Member Joe Zane; Student Representative Isabela Betanzos

Staff: Senior Planner Cowan, Operations Commander Grewe, Lieutenant Kierney, Assistant City Engineer Zielinski

F&V: Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

B. Introductions & Chair Comments

The Board welcomed Messrs. Davies and Hillberg, and congratulated Mr. Doolittle on his appointment to regular member.

C. Approval of MMTB Minutes of October 4, 2022

Motion by Mr. Long

Seconded by Mr. Hocker to approve the MMTB Minutes of October 4, 2022 as submitted.

Motion carried, 6-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Long, Hocker, Policicchio, Doolittle, Zane, Hillberg

Nays: None

Abstain: White

D. Review of the Agenda

E. Unfinished Business

1. Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Sidewalk Priorities

SP Cowan presented the item and Staff answered informational questions.

Mr. Long summarized the MMTB's September 2022 and October 2022 discussions pertaining to this item and Fairway. He also stated that improvements to Fairway were not presently included in the City's capital improvement plans, and that residents would have advance notice and the ability to provide input before any project would commence.

ACE Zielinski concurred.

Public Comment

Margaret Dufault, Dory Balian, Mark Baker, and Sheri Hunter, residents of Fairway, said Fairway should be a tier-three priority.

Julia Cooney and Mark Schoeppe, residents of Fairway, spoke against sidewalks on Fairway.

Rackeline Hoff reiterated that residents would have the opportunity to provide feedback on projects. She gave a brief overview of the process for potentially adding sidewalks to streets.

Janelle Whipple-Boyce spoke in favor of filling in sidewalk gaps.

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

Ms. Policicchio re-emphasized that community perspectives are solicited and taken into account when planning City infrastructure projects.

Mr. Long advised the public that they could access City boards' agendas, minutes, and recordings on the City website in order to stay up-to-date on items being discussed. He noted that all meetings of board members are held in public.

SP Cowan said members of the public could reach out to him to receive further instructions on how to access those items.

2. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program – Speed Humps

SP Cowan introduced the item. He noted that the packet said five miles over the speed limit but that the presentation was updated to say 10 miles over the speed limit to align with City policy. Mr. Strader and SP Cowan presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Ms. Policicchio conjectured that many residents would be more amenable to increased speed enforcement over physical changes to their streets.

Mr. Peard said he has seen enforcement work in keeping vehicle speeds lower in certain areas. He also spoke in favor of Staff's recommendation that the City use data-driven criteria to evaluate the potential installation of speed humps.

Mr. Long supported other potential traffic calming measures.

Mr. Strader noted that even in situations where speed humps might be appropriate, there may traffic calming measures that would be comparably more effective.

There was general Board consensus not to recommend speed hump criteria presently since few-to-no streets would qualify.

Ms. Policicchio added she was against speed humps also because they would impede snow plows and emergency vehicles.

Mr. Long added that he was against speed humps also due to aesthetics and the likelihood that it would be difficult to get the requisite number of residents on a street to agree to speed hump installation.

Motion by Mr. Doolittle

Seconded by Mr. Long to recommend to the City Commission that the City consider alternative traffic calming mitigations other than speed humps to reduce speeds in areas where speed limits are commonly exceeded.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

3. S. Eton, Villa to 14 Mile

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

Mr. Peard said he had some preference for Option A due to its simplicity.

Mr. Long said he would email Staff an option he had seen in use in Bloomington, Indiana.

F. New Business

1. Brown & Southfield Intersection

SP Cowan introduced the item. Lt. Kearney and Ms. Kroll presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Board.

Mr. Hocker suggested that if the condominium association applied to move its access drive further north to be out-of-alignment with the left-turn lane from Brown that could be helpful.

Public Comment

Jim Arpin, president of the homeowners' association, thanked the Board and Staff for its review. He asked why Staff was against recommending LED lights for the intersection.

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

Ms. Kroll stated that Staff did not recommend the addition of LED lights because the intersection was signalized at all hours. She said the red light was visible from far away. She said adding additional lights would be unlikely to resolve the concern.

Since, of the four accidents, three were the result of inebriation and one was the result of a medical emergency, Mr. Doolittle noted that additional lighting would be unlikely to prevent further accidents at the intersection.

In reply to Mr. Hocker, ACE Zielinski agreed that the optimal location for the added signage would be centered by the left turn lane. It was noted that was not presently possible due to the location of the condominium association's driveway.

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

H. Miscellaneous Communications

- 1. SMART Bus Millage**
- 2. Letters from residents regarding sidewalk gap priorities**

Renee Suchara, resident of Fairway, asked why Fairway from Arden to Pleasant would not be considered a gap street and thus a tier-three priority.

I. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the Board adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist