

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION &
PLANNING BOARD
JOINT MEETING AGENDA
JUNE 10, 2024
BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY – ROTARY ROOM
300 W. MERRILL
7:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elaine McLain, Mayor

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Birmingham welcomes public comment limited at the Mayor's discretion to allow for an efficient meeting. The Commission will not participate in a question and answer session and will take no action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The public can also speak to agenda items as they occur when the presiding officer opens the floor to the public. When recognized by the presiding officer, state your name for the record, and direct all comments or questions to the presiding officer.

IV. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- A. The Birmingham Plan 2040 - Prioritization of Key Actions
- B. Woodward Avenue
- C. Public Project Review Process

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. ADJOURN

Should you wish to participate in this meeting, you are invited to attend the meeting in person or virtually through ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/655079760> **Meeting ID: 655 079 760**

You may also present your written statement to the City Commission, City of Birmingham, 151 Martin Street, P.O. Box 3001, Birmingham, Michigan 48012-3001 prior to the hearing.

NOTICE: Individuals requiring accommodations, such as mobility, visual, hearing, interpreter or other assistance, for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-3405 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Las personas que requieren alojamiento, tales como servicios de interpretación, la participación efectiva en esta reunión deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina del Secretario Municipal al (248) 530-1880 por lo menos el día antes de la reunión pública. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



MEMORANDUM

Planning Division

DATE: June 10, 2024

TO: Jana L. Ecker, City Manager

FROM: Nicholas Dupuis, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Planning Board & City Commission Joint Meeting

1. The Birmingham Plan 2040 – Prioritization of Key Actions

On May 22, 2023 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)), the City Commission moved to adopt and approve in its entirety the Birmingham Plan 2040, inclusive of all maps, plats, charts, and other related matter, figures and the Future Land Use Map.

Once a master plan is adopted, the City is tasked with prioritizing and considering the recommendations of the plan through in-depth reviews. Within the Birmingham Plan 2040 ("2040 Plan"), the consultants consolidated and categorized nearly 130 recommendations located throughout the plan into 33 key actions. The consultants then prioritized the key actions based on their assessment of need and time horizon.

As the City moves forward with the implementation of the plan, it is key to remember that a master plan is not a static document. An annual review of a master plan is necessary to complete the following tasks. Every year, the Planning Board should:

1. Review goals and major recommendations.
2. Review action table and progress toward completing annual priorities.
3. Review prior year's rezoning and development decisions. Discuss if there are any trends that need to be addressed.
4. Identify any potential plan amendments to work on for the upcoming year that can be prepared and adopted then incorporated at a later date when the master plan is updated.
5. Identify any Zoning Ordinance updates to undertake in the coming year.

Performing the annual review and thoroughly documenting the process and the machinations of the master plan is essential when it comes to the master plan review after 5 years of adoption as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. At 5 years, it

should be determined whether any amendments are needed or whether the plan is still relevant to today's conditions. Generally, the goals, objectives and future land use plan should be carefully reviewed to contrast with current development trends as well as any major changes or diversions from the plan that have taken place in order to consider whether the plan needs to be updated.

On December 13, 2023 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)), the Planning Board discussed at a high level the Summary of Key Actions and how to begin the implementation of the Birmingham Plan 2040. Much discussion was had regarding an implementation framework and it was acknowledged that although the Planning Board does not have the direct authority to assign duties to other boards, commissions or staff members, it does have duties as listed in [Sec. 82-33](#) of the Birmingham Code of Ordinances to “carry out the goals, objectives and intent of the city's adopted master plan”, among other duties. It was also re-emphasized that each of these action items will be vetted in the public sphere at open meetings, and that the public engagement we invite would be focused on the merits of each recommendation and the work that stems from such rather than the merits of the 2040 Plan itself.

On January 10, 2024 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)), the Planning Division presented a reformatted version of the Summary of Key Actions table, which placed actions into separate tables based on which group would be the “primary” agent for that recommendation or action. The Planning Board and Planning Division discussed each of the tables and how interconnected a lot of the actions will be. Ultimately, the Planning Board requested that a few actions be moved to other sections.

On January 24, 2024 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)), the Planning Board reviewed the Summary of Key Actions tables with the few minor changes that were requested at the last meeting. In addition, the Planning Division provided a draft letter for review that would be sent around to other boards/commissions that have direct responsibilities related to the 2040 Plan.

On February 28, 2024 ([Agenda](#) – [Minutes](#)) the Planning Division has made the requested changes to the Summary of Key Actions tables, and has provided a full suite of draft letters to be circulated to the various boards at which the actions will be ultimately assigned by the City Commission. In addition, the Planning Division has made an attempt to organize the “Zoning Code Update” into different buckets: one that could be handled by a consultant within a comprehensive update to the Zoning Ordinance, and one that could require more attention from the Planning Board.

Questions:

- Do you [the City Commission] feel as though the Planning Board has successfully organized and prioritized the key actions provided in the approved 2040 Plan?
- Would the City Commission consider making this an agenda item at the next available City Commission meeting for the purposes of directing the related boards/commissions to commence work on the associated key actions?

2. Woodward Avenue

The Planning Board has observed a heightened attention to the Woodward corridor from projects such as the Brown/Forest intersection and the road diet project that was recently

completed in Ferndale. In addition, there are 8+ recommendations within the 2040 Plan that are related to Woodward which could lead to large, multi-jurisdictional projects that involve significant policy decisions and need for significant involvement from City leadership.

Finally, the City has made significant progress on a Woodward Road Diet having completed several key items in the MDOT Road Diet Checklist. Most recently, the City's traffic consultants have produced a synchro/simulation model demonstrating traffic flow based on the removal of one traffic lane from southbound Woodward from N. Old Woodward to 14 mile and one traffic lane from northbound Woodward from 14 Mile to Oak. The potential for a road diet on Woodward Avenue in Birmingham presents a major opportunity to address various goals of the City, including those found in the 2040 Plan.

Questions:

- How does the City Commission wish to approach the Woodward Avenue right-of-way and the various ongoing and future proposals?
- Where should the recommendations regarding Woodward be in the prioritization of the 2040 Plan?

3. Public Project Review Process

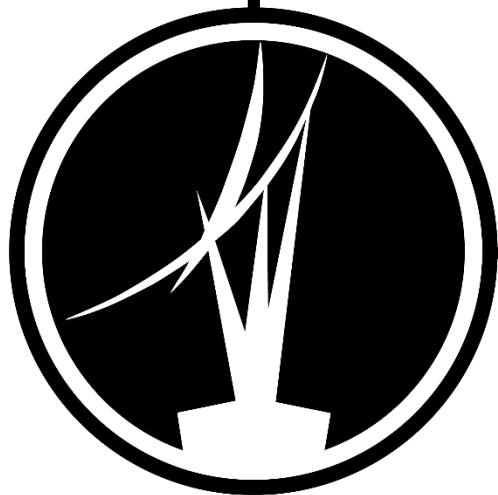
Over the years, the Planning Board has reviewed several public projects at a courtesy level including the recent library expansions and Birmingham Fire Station 2. Overall, Planning Board has expertise that lends itself to the review of these projects and feel their role could be expanded to ensure that public development projects aspire to meet similar standards as private development to ensure a harmonious and consistent urban environment.

In addition, the 2040 Plan provides some guidance for public building projects that may be found in the sections which discuss Civic Destinations. Civic Destinations are described as including civic institutions and outdoor spaces in institutional uses. Civic buildings offer neutral, aspirational places for citizens and community leaders to exchange ideas, form community associations, or simply socialize. Located in a neighborhood setting, these institutions encourage neighborhood interaction. They also tend to draw people from other nearby neighborhoods, cross-pollinating the City's social structures. Civic buildings and landscapes should be grand and iconic, and be distinct from residential construction to avoid confusing public and private uses.

The 2040 Plan provides a recommendation to establish policy to continue the tradition of constructing Birmingham's civic buildings and parks as iconic structures and landscapes to the highest standards and at a civic scale.

Questions:

- Does the City Commission desire to require a formal, thorough site plan and design review for public development projects?
- If so, which board/commission should be responsible for the site plan and design review? What standards should be applied to public projects?
- Does the City Commission wish to develop a guide based on the recommendations of the 2040 plan outlining a set of standards for the review of public projects?

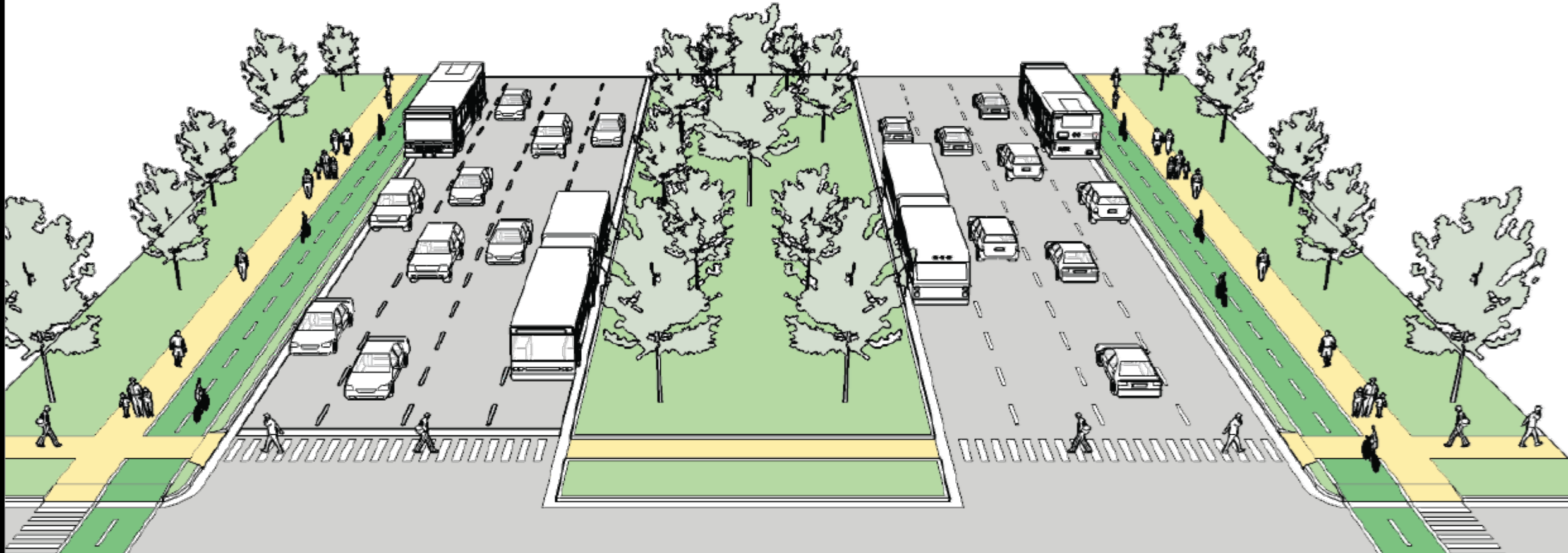


Planning Board & City Commission

Joint Meeting Slides
June 10, 2024

Themes:

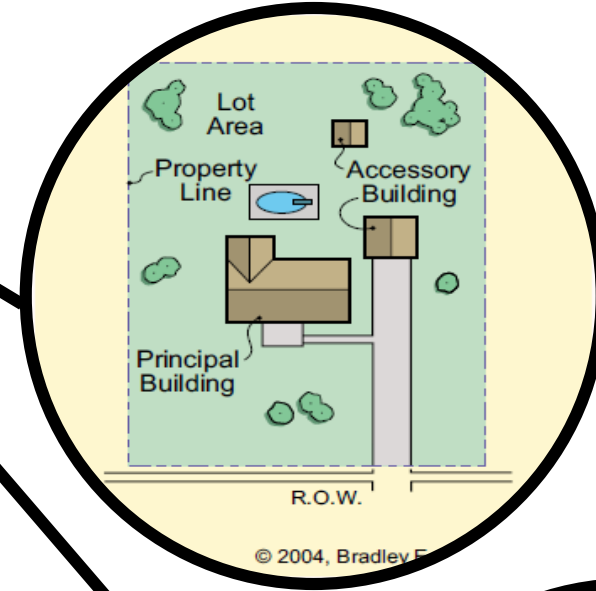
1. Retain neighborhood quality
2. A history of high quality
3. Bridge the divide

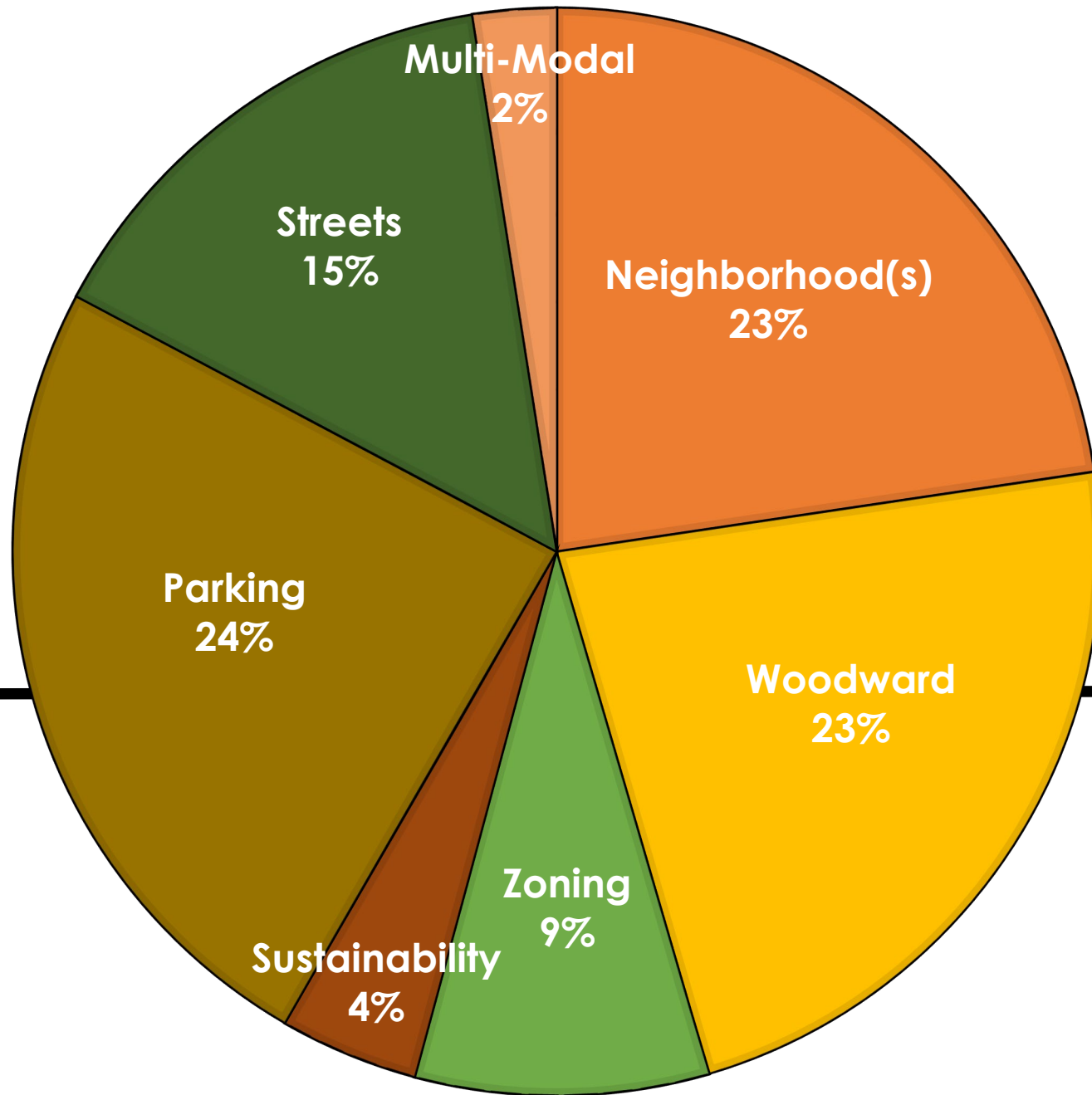


The Birmingham Plan 2040

Priorities:

- Neighborhoods
- The Zoning Ordinance
- Woodward Avenue





2040

Woodward Avenue



- Woodward Road Diet
- Ferndale
- History of Collaboration
- Political Leadership

Public Projects:

